

POSTMASTER: DATED MATERIAL. PLEASE DELIVER BY AUGUST 28, 1993

\$2.00

10003649 B 03523
2327 W LINCOLN AVE
PUBLIC RELATIONS DIRECTOR
ANAHEIM CA 92801

3

Chicago BEAR REPORT

A NEWSPAPER DEVOTED
EXCLUSIVELY TO THE
CHICAGO BEARS AND THE NFL.

Vol. 18 No. 13 August 28, 1993

SAINTS EDGE BEARS

Offense
Revives
In Loss

Bears Swap For
2 Linebackers

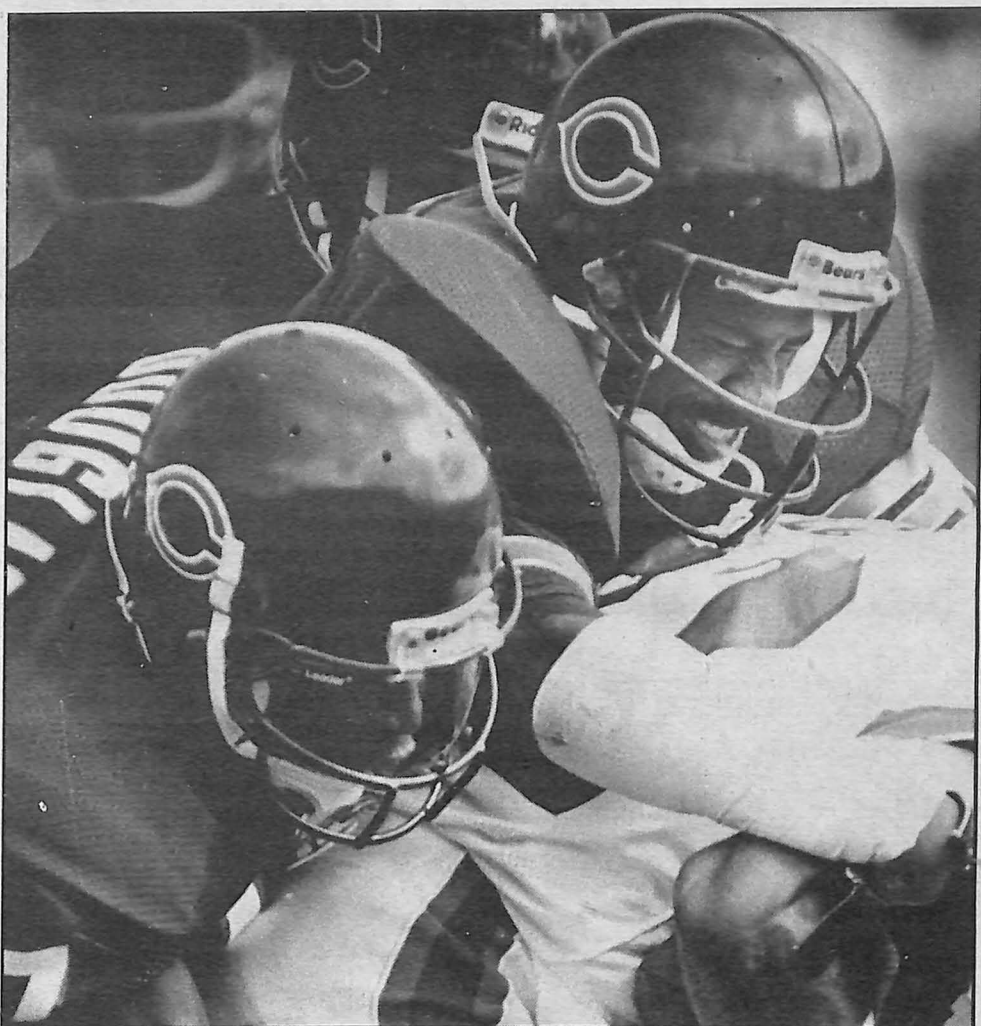
Bears Prepare
For Super
Bowl Champs

Is Time Right
To Hire GM?



THE MAN IN THE MIDDLE

Dante Jones
replaces
a legend



(No) safety in numbers

Because of the fine play of safeties Maurice Douglass (left) and Shaun Gayle (right), it was a numbers game for Markus Paul, who was dealt to the Cowboys along with Kelly Blackwell and John Roper for two linebackers. See story on page 4. (Bear Report file photo by Steve Woltmann)



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

COVER STORY

3 Man in the middle: All at once Dante Jones is being asked to learn a brand new defensive scheme, quarterback a unit that consists of players who've won a Super Bowl championship, and replace a legend.

FEATURES

8 Injury bug: Hours after the Bears unloaded tight end Kelly Blackwell in a trade to the Cowboys, incumbent Keith Jennings tore a knee ligament and will be out 4-6 weeks. In Extra Points.

10 Miller time: Richard Dent and the Bears defense is featured in this week's full-color poster sacking Falcons QB Chris Miller.

12 Lone Star reunion: Bears coach Dave Wannstedt takes on his former team and former boss when the Cowboys visit Soldier Field for the preseason finale Friday night.

15 Where are they now: Joe Fortunato was both durable and productive during his career with the Bears from 1955-66. He's now president of an oil and gas exploration company in Mississippi.

NEWS

4 Trade winds: The Bears solidify their linebacker position and bolster their special teams by acquiring Vinson Smith and Barry Minter from the Cowboys in exchange for three players.

5-7 Bayou boys: Complete coverage of the Bears-Saints tussle in New Orleans Monday night.

COLUMNISTS

9 Don Pierson: It may be a while before the Bears go back to Texas for top draft choices. Trading Stan Thomas and John Roper last week represented the end of short careers for two recent draft busts.

13 Fred Mitchell: In sickness and in health, Trace Armstrong has buckled up his chin strap for the Bears for the past four years.

14 Doug Buffone: Last week's five-player deal between the Bears and Cowboys should benefit both teams, a rare occurrence in professional sports.

16 Brian Hewitt: You watch the Bears on the field and your mind wanders up to the front office. Now more than ever the Bears need a full-time general manager.

DRAW PLAY



Chicago BEAR REPORT

Vol. 18 No. 13 August 28, 1993

GENERAL MANAGER

John Weishar

MANAGING EDITOR

Larry Mayer

ADVERTISING SALES

Ron Royle, Cathy Hanson

112 Market St., Sun Prairie, WI 53590

608/837-5161

MEMBER

Professional Football Publications Assoc.

NATIONAL ADVERTISING

Ron Royle

608-837-5161, Ext. 276

Caddy Rowland

Minneapolis, MN

612-735-1501

CIRCULATION DEPT.

Patty Royle/Sandy Wenger 608/837-2200

Chicago Bear Report (USPS 322-850) (ISSN 1056-4284) is published 26 times a year including two weeks in January, monthly February, April, May, June, July; weekly August through December; except two bye dates, by 55 Enterprises, 112 Market St., Sun Prairie, WI 53590.

Chicago Bear Report is a wholly owned subsidiary of 55 Enterprises and not an official publication of the Chicago Bears.

All rights reserved, no portion of this publication may be reproduced without permission.

SUBSCRIPTIONS — \$29.95 per year (26 issues). First class mail an additional \$30 per year. Air mail an additional \$70 per year. Second class postage paid at Sun Prairie, WI 53590 and additional offices.

POSTMASTER SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO — Chicago Bear Report, 112 Market Street, Sun Prairie, WI 53590.

GENERAL OFFICES — 112 Market Street, Sun Prairie, WI 53590, (608) 837-5161.

PLEASE SEND SUBSCRIPTION REQUESTS TO — 112 Market Street, Sun Prairie, WI 53590, (608) 837-2200.

EDITORIAL OFFICES — P.O. Box 4205, Arlington Heights, IL 60006, (708) 934-6363.

JONES IS THE MAN IN THE MIDDLE

Sooner or later his teammates will realize that Dante Jones is not a substitute teacher.

All at once the six-year veteran is being asked to learn an entirely new defensive scheme, quarterback a unit that consists of players who've won a Super Bowl championship, and replace a legend.

"I've got a lot of guys older than I am on defense and it's hard for me to take control because these guys have done it all. They've been to the Super Bowl and they've been through all the wars," said Jones, 28, who as starting middle linebacker is entrusted with calling defensive signals in the huddle. "I'm trying to call the huddle and they're looking off doing their own thing."

"It's kind of hard for me to get Steve McMichael and Richard Dent in line because they just might start slapping me around or something," Jones said with a laugh.

Jones, who has never started an NFL game at middle linebacker, is expected to

"If I go out there and make a lot of plays, they're going to start accepting me as one of them."

move into the role this season. He joined the Bears in 1988 as a second-round draft pick from Oklahoma and served primarily as Mike Singletary's back-up in the subsequent years. His two NFL starts came in 1988 and 1989 at right linebacker.

Jones understands that the only way to command the respect of his teammates is through his performance and leadership on the field. Nothing he does in the locker room or even in practice will alter the situation if he doesn't produce once the regular season begins.

"I'll basically gain that respect through my play," he said. "If I go out there and make a lot of plays, they're going to start accepting me as one of them. Hopefully I can keep getting better and keep making plays and one day get accepted."

That day appears close. As of now, Jones maintains a firm grasp on the start-

LARRY MAYER



ing middle linebacker position although rookie Myron Baker, veteran Ron Cox and new acquisition Vinson Smith have worked out at the spot in practice.

Jones had a stellar game in the Bears' 13-9 preseason loss at Philadelphia. He made two head-rattling hits on Eagles ballcarriers, including a pop on Herschel Walker on the game's first play that was vintage Singletary. Jones finished the game with a team-high six tackles.

Jones didn't have as big an impact the following week against Phoenix, but he's confident he's improving every day in practice. This season has turned into a learning experience for Jones and his teammates as they digest an entirely new system that's based on speed and quickness. Dave Wannstedt's scheme encourages linemen to shoot gaps and for linebackers to swarm to the ball.

"It's going to give everybody a chance to get involved," Jones said. "In college we had a swarm-type defense where everybody tried to get to the ball and make a play. The last couple years it's been more like you read, read and wait until Mike made the tackle."

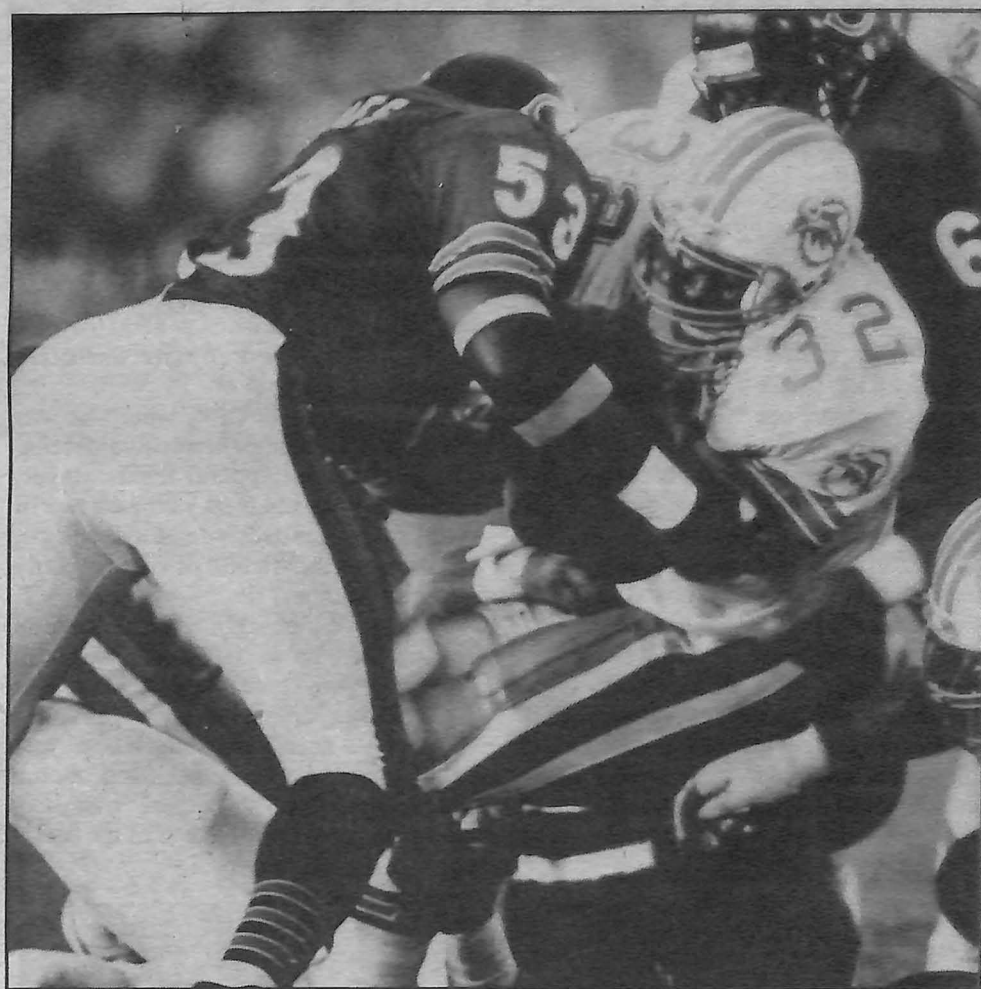
"This year it's more exciting for everybody on defense and for the fans."

Though Jones is the starter at this point, by no means does he have a lock on the job. Wannstedt has said he will start the three best linebackers regardless of their inside-outside experience. Sort of like the three best outfielders playing in baseball's annual All-Star Game.

"I've got to work on reading the running backs and dipping and ripping through blocks better," Jones said. "It's something I did in college a lot, but up here they had told us to take the sting off before you went to the ball. Every now and then I'm still doing that, which I need to get out of. I need to just read the play and go to the ball."

In limited action throughout his five-year career, Jones has made 110 tackles. That's a figure Singletary surpassed in nine of his 12 NFL seasons. Jones recorded a career-high 29 tackles last season. He acknowledges that it's difficult to step into the starting lineup, a move that's magnified when you replace someone like Singletary.

"There's always pressure, especially when you replace a legend like Mike," Jones said. "He's a future Hall of Fame. It's going to be something like the guy who replaces Michael Jordan. There will be a lot of pressure



Dante Jones has never started an NFL game at middle linebacker but is expected to move into that role this season with the Bears. (Bear Report file photo by Steve Woltmann)

on him, too."

Jones has been the heir apparent for the last three or four seasons. Singletary hedged on retirement during those years before making it official last season. Jones admits he had a cavalier attitude his first few years in the league but says he was ready to start by 1990.

"I was just living life as a football player and I wasn't taking it seriously," Jones said. "By my third year I worked out hard and I felt then that I was ready to play."

From a work ethic standpoint, there wasn't a more ideal player for Jones to pattern himself after than Singletary. Singletary was a student of the game, a man whose dedication to his profession was unmatched and well-respected.

"I learned from watching Mike in practice," Jones said. "He always went full-speed during practice and never slacked

off. He always tried to get better every day. Off the field, he took a lot of film home and was always trying to improve."

That's something Jones is working on. He understands that Wannstedt likes his middle linebacker to be the leader on the field and he's working extra hard to ease into that role. Jones feels he's a big part of something that could end up being pretty special when all is said and done. He hasn't set any numerical goals for this season. He simply wants to help the Bears' defense return with a vengeance.

"I just want to get a grasp of the defense and learn it as well as the coaches know it," he said. "I want to be part of a defense that makes things happen and a defense that's positive for Chicago because the last couple years we haven't been all that good. I want to be part of a great defense."

Historically speaking...

Dante Jones will attempt to join a rich tradition of Chicago Bears middle linebackers.

Clyde "Bulldog" Turner started the legacy in a 13-year career from 1940-52. In 1954 Bill George became the NFL's first true middle linebacker when he dropped off the line of scrimmage from his middle guard position. He held the job until Dick Butkus was drafted out of Illinois in 1965. Butkus was a seven-time Pro Bowler. Mike Singletary then took over, and made 10 trips to the Pro Bowl from 1980-93.

ON THE ROAD IN 1993
Red Carpet TRAVEL
BEARS ROAD TRIPS

Nov. 12th — San Diego
Air, 3 nts Hotel

\$539.00 per person

Dec. 10th — Tampa
Air, 3 nts Hotel

\$479.00 per person

Book Now!

Limited Space Available!



1044 E. 162nd Street, South Holland, IL 60473
708-596-0070

Chicago
SportScene™

The ONLY monthly covering

CUBS • WHITE SOX • BEARS
BULLS • BLACKHAWKS • COLLEGE

for Chicago sports fans who
DON'T live in Chicago

One year—only \$24 (\$29 Canada, \$38 overseas)
Two years—only \$40 (\$50 Canada, \$68 overseas)
APO and FPO are U.S. rate
Check, VISA, MasterCard (include expiration)

Send name, address and payment to:

Chicago SportScene

Box 880524 Dept. BR • Steamboat Springs
CO 80488 • (303) 879-7860

Great Gift Idea!

FREE gift card included.
give us your personalized message.

Bears swap for two LBs

By Larry Mayer
Managing Editor

PLATTEVILLE, Wis.—The pipeline between Dallas and Chicago was not sealed off when Dave Wannstedt and two of his assistants jumped to the Bears. That was evident last Tuesday when the two teams hooked up on a rare five-player trade.

The Bears shipped safety Markus Paul, tight end Kelly Blackwell and disgruntled linebacker John Roper to the Cowboys in exchange for linebackers Vinson Smith and Barry Minter and an undisclosed draft choice. Smith started 13 games for the Super Bowl champions last season and is expected to displace Ron Cox as the strong side starter. Minter is a rookie sixth-round draft pick whom the Bears coveted.

"In evaluating after two ballgames, it's definitely a concern where we need to keep getting better is at linebacker," Wannstedt said. "I've been saying that all along. This will give us a chance to improve the competition and upgrade us at that position."

"That whole position has not been

solidified. "I'm just uneasy about that whole scenario right now. I'm anxious to see where these two guys fit."

The key to the trade for the Bears is Smith. He's a six-year veteran who joined the Cowboys from the Steelers during the 1990 Plan B period. A hard-nosed hitter who always comes up big against the run, Smith finished fifth on the Cowboys in total tackles last season. A versatile performer, he has played all three linebacker positions.

Minter attended Tulsa where he was known as a hard-hitter who could develop into an excellent special teams player. Both players run a 4.6 40-yard dash and fit ideally into Wannstedt's defensive scheme. And with Smith, Wannstedt knows exactly what he's getting.

"Vinson has the right work ethic we're looking for," he said. "He'll fit in with what we're doing here. He'll help."

Cowboys coach Jimmy Johnson, Wannstedt's friend and former boss, told Dallas reporters that he hesitated trading Smith and only did so because Wannstedt was involved on the other end of the deal.

Smith and Minter joined the Bears on Wednesday. There was no morning practice, and then torrential rains forced the Bears indoors for their afternoon workout. Smith was getting reps at both the strong side and middle linebacker positions, as was Cox. Dante Jones remains the starting middle linebacker, however.

Paul was the most productive of the three players sent to Dallas. He recorded 202 tackles and seven interceptions in his four seasons with the Bears. He played mostly nickel back but did a good job subbing for the injured Shaun Gayle in 1991 and 1992. In fact, he made 16 tackles against the Giants in his first start for Gayle in 1991.

The Bears will likely keep four safeties, and Gayle, Mark Carrier, Maurice Douglass and John Mangum were ranked ahead of him. The Cowboys were desperate for a safety after Clayton Holmes suffered a season-ending injury and Darren Woodson and Ken Gant also got hurt.

"I feel kind of good and kind of sad," Paul said an hour after being told of the trade. "It's good because I'm going to a place that needs safeties right now. This is an opportunity for me to go in and try to get a starting spot and to make a long-term home somewhere."

"But I do have mixed emotions. I have a beautiful girlfriend in Waukegan, Illinois. I had to call her and tell her I was leaving and she didn't take it too well. And I bought a house last year that I've got to sell now. It's tough, but it's the NFL—and that stands for 'Not For Long.'"

Blackwell got off to a slow start this season after undergoing knee surgery. He had been back practicing a few weeks but

was losing ground to rookie free agent Ryan Wetnight and recent free agent acquisition Danta Whitaker.

Blackwell caught five passes for 54 yards as a rookie last season with the Bears. He was sad to go but happy that he'll be returning home. Blackwell grew up about 15 minutes from Texas Stadium.

The Cowboys needed a tight end to backup Jay Novacek after losing Alfredo Roberts, Fallon Wacasey and Rich Bartlewski to season-ending injuries.

"I have mixed emotions, but hopefully it's going to be good for me," Blackwell said. "They're a great proven team and it's an exciting possibility to get back to the Super Bowl this year."

Roper was ecstatic about the deal. He had held out of training camp and was not in Wannstedt's plans. He eventually signed with the Bears and went through one practice in Platteville before his wish to be traded was granted. Roper also has Texas roots. He attended Texas A & M University.

Paul said he knew something would happen but was a little stunned as he settled into the passenger seat of Blackwell's truck as the two followed Roper out of town.

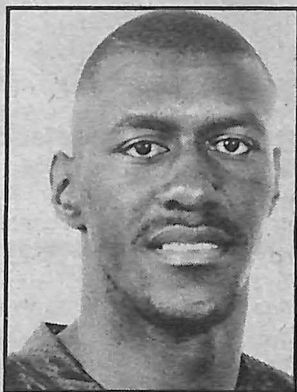
"Deep down in my heart I kind of knew that I was going to either get cut or get traded, because I wasn't getting a lot of reps in practice," Paul said. "I was just trying to stay positive. I've got to look at this as a blessing."

Bear fans will see Paul, Blackwell and Roper Friday when the Bears host the Cowboys in their final preseason game.

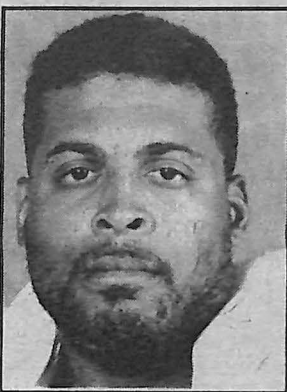
"I'll get a chance to say goodbye to the guys I didn't see today and I'll say goodbye to Chicago," Blackwell said.



Kelly Blackwell



Markus Paul



John Roper



OAK LAWN TRAVEL Presents THE CHICAGO BEARS ROAD TRIPS!

Minnesota * Green Bay * San Diego
Kansas City * Detroit * Tampa Bay

FOR DETAILS CALL (708) 599-4600
6058 W. 95th Street, Oak Lawn, IL 60453

Be on your own Full Color... TRADING CARD!

Premier Custom Cardz are superior quality FULL COLOR trading cards printed on genuine Kodak® paper.

Send us a color photo of yourself in your favorite Bear, or other team uniform or "fan" attire, and we'll turn it into your very own custom trading card! Do one of yourself, your kids, grandkids or anyone who is a sports fan.

Just fill out the attached Order Form, send it along with your color photo and check or money order to the address on the Order Form below. (Please write your name, position and jersey number on the back of your photo). One form per photo please.

Premier Custom Cardz, LTD.®
P.O. Box 5024 Glendale Heights, IL 60139

Enclosed is \$_____ for _____ 2 card sets. Add \$1.00 per card set for shipping and handling. Outside USA add \$2.75 per card (US funds only). Illinois Residents add 6.75% sales tax. Please send Check or money orders only!

PRINT NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

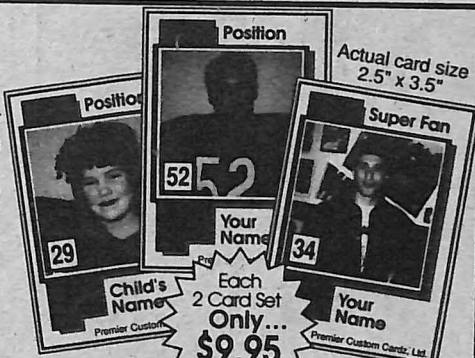
CITY _____

STATE _____

ZIP _____

DAYTIME PHONE (____) _____

POSITION _____



You will receive your card set in only 7-14 days!

Special teams played significant role in trade

Upgrading the Bears' special teams remains a priority to Dave Wannstedt, as evidenced by Tuesday morning's trade. Both Vinson Smith and Barry Minter are excellent special teams players and should improve the punt and kickoff coverage teams immediately with their speed and strength.

"I feel confident we've helped ourselves at linebacker and made it a more competitive position," Wannstedt said. "And maybe more importantly, both players are special teams guys."

Ultimately, an inability to play special teams made Kelly Blackwell and Markus Paul expendable. With tight ends Keith Jennings, rookie free agent Ryan Wetnight and injured rookie Chris Gedney already penciled in on the opening day roster, that left Blackwell competing against free agent acquisition Danta Whitaker for a roster spot. Whitaker's special teams play gave him the edge.

"Danta and Kelly were very close as far as their talent goes, but Danta is a deep snapper and has done a lot more special teams work," Wannstedt said.

"Again, it goes back to special teams."

Paul also was not as effective on special teams as other players at his position.

"I told the guys on this team that every player who is in a back-up role has to be a major contributor on special teams," Wannstedt said. "If you're not a starter you have to be a special teams fanatic. And if that wasn't happening we're kidding ourselves. We're not better as a team."

Trades were rare when Bill Tobin was in place as personnel boss. That seems to be changing with Wannstedt, who traded four players in two separate deals within 12 hours. The Bears shipped Stan Thomas to the Falcons late Monday night for a mid-round draft pick.

"You've got to look to improve your team and keep it as competitive as possible," Wannstedt explained. "The more quality competition we have at every position, the better the team is going to be."

--Larry Mayer

Bears' offense emerges

By Larry Mayer
Managing Editor

Dave Wannstedt wasn't blowing smoke when he promised the Bears' offense would eventually click. It took a little over 10 preseason quarters, but the offense did in fact kick into gear during the second half of Monday night's encounter in New Orleans.

Quarterbacks Jim Harbaugh and Peter Tom Willis each directed touchdown drives as the Bears erased a 10-0 halftime and jumped ahead 14-10.

That the Bears' reserve defensive unit would eventually squander that brief lead en route to a 20-14 loss didn't diminish the fact that the biggest question mark on the team was at least partially answered.

The Saints won the game by scissoring through the Bears defense, eventually taking the lead for good as Sammy Martin badly beat Bears cornerback Keshon Johnson for a 17-yard TD pass from third-string quarterback Mike Buck with 1:24 left in the game.

On the game-winning drive, the Saints marched 82 yards in eight plays, using up just 2:12 of the clock.

"We missed too many tackles, especially on that last drive," Wannstedt said. "I was a little discouraged with that. They

did a nice job of dumping the ball off, but we didn't help the cause with our tackling. And that's something we work too hard on.

"We're going to be a good tackling team."

The Bears tried to rally again, but Willis was blindsided by Saints linebacker Joel Smeenge, who beat guard Todd Perry and forced Willis to cough up the ball. Reserve kicker Rich Andrews added a 25-yard field goal with :42 left to make it 20-14.

Obee made a sensational catch at the Saints' 5 on an alley-oop pass, stealing the ball from three defenders, but time expired and the Bears went down to their third straight preseason defeat.

Trailing 10-7, Willis capped a six play drive by lofting a 38-yard TD pass to a wide open Obee down the right sideline off a nifty play-action fake, giving the Bears a 14-10 edge with 3:36 left in the fourth quarter.

On their first possession of the second half, the Bears marched 92 yards in 14 plays to score their second touchdown of the preseason and draw to within 10-7.

On third-and-four from the Saints' 16, Harbaugh read a blitz and dumped a pass off to recent free agent acquisition Danta Whitaker in the left flat. The tight end turned up-field and carried a defender into the end zone with 4:53 left in the third quarter.

After Harbaugh completed just 5 of 13 passes for 47 yards in a shaky first half performance, he connected on 4 of 5 for 49 yards on the scoring drive. The most spectacular pass play was an 18-yard reception by Obee on third-and-7 from the Bears' 36-yard line. Obee stretched across his body and pulled in the pass as he was bumped by a Saints defender.

The drive was also powered by a resurgent Chicago running game. With Neal Anderson on the shelf and Darren Lewis ineffective, the Bears turned to bruising fullback Craig Heyward, who's normally relegated to blasting open holes rather than powering through them.

Heyward (62 yards on 13 carries) showed fancy footwork along with brute force as he crashed through his former teammates, gaining 27 yards on four carries on the drive.

The momentum seemed to be swinging Chicago's way as the Bears forced the Saints to punt on their ensuing possession. But the Bears couldn't get things going as Heyward was stuffed for no gain on third-and-1 at the Chicago 17 on the first play of the fourth quarter.

The Bears' defense then responded as good buddies Alonzo Spellman and Chris Zorich teamed up. After the Saints had marched to the Chicago 25, Spellman punched the ball out of Dalton Hilliard's hands on a third-and-5 inside handoff and Zorich pounced on it at the 29.

With Peter Tom Willis replacing Harbaugh, the Bears were stymied as Willis was sacked on third-and-12 from the Bears' 27.

Willis (8 of 11 for 167 yards) again outperformed Harbaugh, who finished the night 10 of 19 for 102 yards. But Wannstedt was not disappointed with Harbaugh's play.

"He's had some rough days here and he never got rattled," Wannstedt said. "He knew what was going on, what we were trying to do, and I think he made a step in the right direction. I really do."

Mistakes in crucial situations are what Wannstedt and his staff are trying to erase. But another costly miscue reared its ugly head at the end of the second quarter.

On the final play of the half, linebacker Ron Cox was called for defensive holding on a 52-yard field goal attempt by Morten Andersen. The kick sailed wide, but because a half cannot end on a defensive foul, Andersen was given a reprieve. He connected from 42 yards to push the Saints ahead 10-0.

That sequence typified what's turned into a frustrating preseason for the Chicago Bears.

After a shaky start, the Bears' offense showed signs of life on its second drive of the game. Heyward blasted up the middle for 18 yards on three carries against his former teammates as the Bears marched to the New Orleans 16. The drive was sparked by a successful fourth down-and-two conversion at the Saints' 44. On that play, Lewis bounced off a tackler and dove forward for a much needed yard.

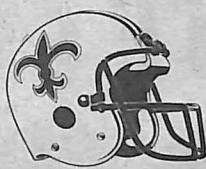
Two weak throws by Harbaugh were batted away in the end zone, and the Bears were forced to bring on Kevin Butler. Butler's bad luck continued, however, as his 32-yard field goal attempt was blocked by Jim Wilks and the Saints took over at their own 35.

It was Butler's third straight miss, though this one clearly wasn't his fault. Pressure came up the middle and Butler had no chance.

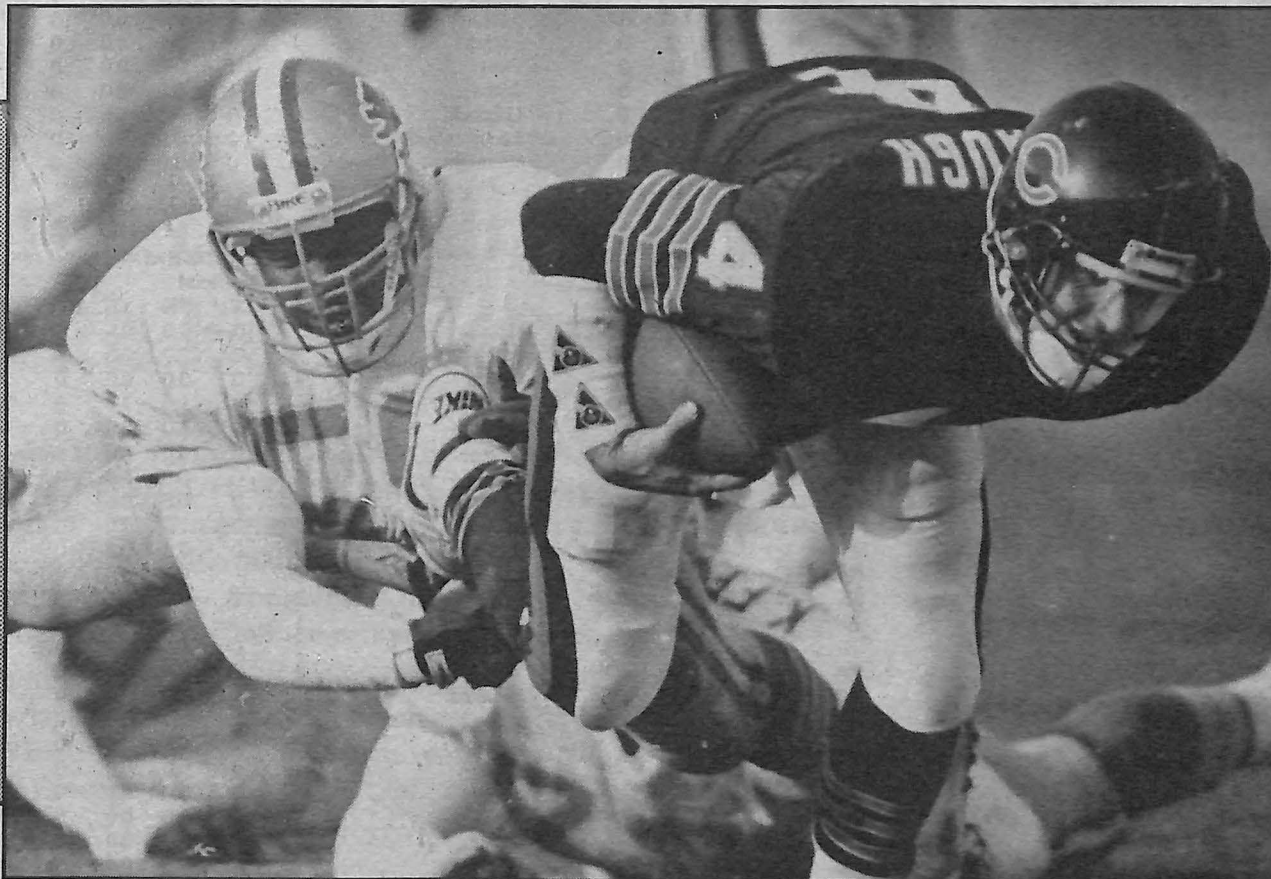
The Bears' defense then asserted itself as Jim Morrissey drilled Hilliard for no gain and rookie free agent safety Tracy Saul dove to break up a third down pass.



14



20



Jim Harbaugh, shown here escaping from a Lions defender, continues to adjust to Dave Wannstedt's new system. Harbaugh completed

10 of 19 passes for 102 yards, one TD and one interception in Monday night's 20-14 loss at New Orleans.

TV Talk...

Bear Report Managing Editor Larry Mayer will analyze the Bears and take your phone calls every Tuesday night from 9-10 p.m. on **ChicagoLand Television's Sports Page**.

Call your Chicago area cable company for more information about CLTV.

NFL FLAGS



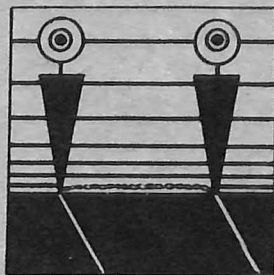
Reg. \$49.00

SALE \$44⁰⁰

800-236-FLAG
(3 5 2 4)



FLY-ME-FLAG CO.
1720 S. ASHLAND AVE.
GREEN BAY



GAME STATISTICS

SCORING SUMMARY

Chicago Bears	0	0	7	7	14
New Orleans Saints	0	10	0	10	20

Saints, 2, 12:30, Early 30-yard pass from Wilson (Andersen, kick) (5-60, 2:14)
 Saints, 2, 0:00, Andersen 47-yard field goal (12-81, 1:54)
 Bears, 3, 4:53, Whitaker 17-yard pass from Harbaugh (Butler, kick) (14-92, 8:21)
 Bears, 4, 3:36, Obee 38-yard pass from Willis (Butler, kick) (6-80, 2:48)
 Saints, 4, 1:24, Martin 16-yard pass from Buck (Andrews, kick) (8-82, 2:12)
 Saints, 4, 0:42, Andrews 25-yard field goal (4-8, 0:34)
 Attendance: 61,149; Tickets Distributed: 61,149; Time: 2:59
 Weather: Partly cloudy, temperature 93, humidity 52, wind SW 5 mph

FINAL TEAM STATISTICS

	Bears	Saints
TOTAL FIRST DOWNS	21	20
By Rushing	7	3
By Passing	13	16
By Penalty	1	1
THIRD DOWN EFFICIENCY	4-12-33%	7-16-44%
FOURTH DOWN EFFICIENCY	1-1-100%	0-0-0%
TOTAL NET YARDS	368	333
Total Offensive Plays (inc. time thrown passing)	64	65
Average gain per offensive play	5.8	5.1
NET YARDS RUSHING	119	56
Total Rushing Plays	31	22
Average gain per rushing play	3.8	2.5
NET YARDS PASSING	249	277
Times thrown — yards lost attempting to pass	3-20	0-0
Gross yards passing	269	277
PASS ATTEMPTS-COMPLETIONS-HAD INT.	30-18-1	43-26-1
Average gain per pass play (inc. # thrown passing)	7.5	6.4
KICKOFFS-In End Zone-Touchbacks	3-2-1	4-3-3
PUNTS Number and Average	5-43.4	5-42.4
Had Blocked	0	0
FGs-PATs Had Blocked	1-0	0-0
TOTAL RETURN YARDAGE (Not Including Kickoffs)	46	23
No. and Yards Punt Returns	2-4	3-23
No. and Yards Kickoff Returns	1-22	2-55
No. and Yards Interception Returns	1-42	1-0
PENALTIES Number and Yards	4-25	5-31
FUMBLES Number and Lost	1-1	1-1
TOUCHDOWNS	2	2
Rushing	0	0
Passing	2	2
DEFENSIVE/KICKING GAME	0/0	0/0
EXTRA POINTS Made-Attempts	2-2	2-2
FIELD GOALS Made-Attempts	0-1	2-2
SAFETIES	0	0
FINAL SCORE	14	20
TIME OF POSSESSION	32:53	27:07

CHICAGO BEARS

	Att.	Net Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
RUSHING					
Heyward	13	62	4.8	13	0
Lewis	16	55	3.4	12	0
Brewer	2	2	1.0	1	0

	Att.	Com.	Yds.	TKD	Yds.	TD	LG	Had Int.
PASSING								
Harbaugh	19	10	102	1	8	1	19	1
Willis	11	8	167	2	11	1	49	0

	No.	Yds.	LG	TD
PASS RECEIVING				
Christian	3	43	17	0
Wetnight	2	30	18	0
Whitaker	2	23	17	1
Davis	2	20	14	0
Heyward	2	9	5	0
Wright	1	18	18	0
Brewer	1	7	7	0
Lewis	1	8	6	0
Obee	4	113	49	1

	No.	Yds.	LG	TD
INTERCEPTIONS				
Carrier	1	42	42	0

	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TB	In 20	LG
PUNTING						
Gardocki	5	217	43.4	1	0	47

	No.	FC	Yds.	LG	TD
PUNT RETURNS					
Woolford	2	0	4	3	0
Obee	0	1	1	0	0
Downed	1	0	0	0	0
Touchback	1	0	0	0	0

	No.	FC	Yds.	LG	TD
KICKOFF RETURNS					
Obee	1	0	22	22	0
Touchback	3	0	0	0	0

RUSHING

	Att.	Net Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
Hilliard	5	17	3.4	17	0
Brown	6	10	1.7	8	0
Neal	1	9	9.0	9	0
Ned	2	7	3.5	4	0
Muster	5	6	1.2	5	0
Buck	1	5	5.0	5	0
Fennerty	2	2	1.0	2	0

PASSING

	Att.	Com.	Yds.	TKD	Yds.	TD	LG	Had Int.
Wilson	22	13	134	0	0	1	30	1
Buck	12	8	93	0	0	1	22	0

PASS RECEIVING

	No.	Yds.	LG	TD
Early	4	45	22	0
Brown	2	29	18	0
Smith	2	28	15	0
McCleskey	2	19	12	0
Dowdell	2	15	10	0
Muster	2	12	9	0
Martin	1	16	16	1
Small	1	15	15	0
Brenner	1	13	13	0
Turner	1	13	13	0
Newman	1	11	11	0
Williams	1	6	6	0
Wainwright	1	5	5	0
Hilliard	1	4	4	0

INTERCEPTIONS

	No.	Yds.	LG	TD
Atkins	1	0	0	0

PUNTING

	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TB	In 20	LG
Barnhardt	4	171	42.8	0	2	50
Stigge	1	41	41.0	1	0	41

PUNT RETURNS

	No.	FC	Yds.	LG	TD
Hughes	3	0	23	10	0
Newman	0	1	0	0	0

KICKOFF RETURNS

	No.	FC	Yds.	LG	TD
Hughes	1	0	36	36	0
Dowdell	1	0	19	19	0
Touchback	1	0	0	0	0

CHICAGO BEARS

	T	A	SK	YL	INT.	PD	FR
Douglass	5	6	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Lincoln	6	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Gayle	4	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Morrissey	4	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

	T	A	SK	YL	INT.	PD	FR
Cain	3	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Saul	3	0	0.0	0.0	0	1	0
Cox	2	1	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
McMichael	2	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Smith	2	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Stinson	2	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Woolford	2	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Armstrong	1	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Baker	1	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Carrier	1	0	0.0	0.0	1	1	0
Cooper	1	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Goodwin	1	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Johnson	1	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Minter	1	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Schwartz	1	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Simpson	1	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Spellman	1	0	0.0	0.0	0	1	0
Zorich	1	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	1
Dent	0	1	0.0	0.0	0	1	0
Jones	0	1	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Gardocki	0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Leeuwenburg	0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Wetnight	0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

Unofficial

	T	A	SK	YL	INT.	PD	FR
Mills	5	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Lumpkin	3	2	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Martin	4	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Smeenge	4	0	1.0	4.0	0	0	0
Turnbull	3	1	1.0	9.0	0	0	0
Atkins	3	0	0.0	0.0	1	1	0
Buck	3	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Jackson	3	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Miller	3	0	1.0	7.0	0	0	0
Williams	3	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Dunbar	2	1	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Spencer	2	1	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Maxie	1	2	0.0	0.0	0	1	0
Hughes	2	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	1
Wilks	2	0	0.0	0.0	0	1	0
Pahukoa	1	1	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Warren	1	1	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Johnson	0	2	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Dixon	1	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Legette	1	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Mack	1	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Taylor	1	0	0.0	0.0	0	1	0
Winston	1	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Cook	0	1	0.0	0.0	0	2	0
Freeman	0	1	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Byrd	0	0	0.0	0.0	0	1	0
Cooper	0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0

Obee performs under pressure

One man's misfortune is another's gain. Before the game the Bears decided that rookie first-round draft pick Curtis Conway would not play because of a sore ankle. And with Anthony Morgan remaining in Chicago shaking the effects of last week's concussion, that put free agent receiver Terry Obee in the national spotlight.

Obee responded by all but cementing a position on the Bears 1993 roster by making four catches for 113 yards and one touchdown. Two of Obee's grabs were spectacular in addition to his 17-yard TD reception from Peter Tom Willis that gave the Bears a 14-10 fourth quarter lead.

Morgan and Neal Anderson did not make the trip to New Orleans. As for Conway, the Bears wanted to be cautious as the regular season rapidly approaches.

"We were treating him every day," coach Dave Wannstedt said. "He got a treatment (Sunday) morning. We were hoping today that he could have done something. We weren't going to use him on kicks, but we didn't know until right before kickoff (that he wouldn't play).

Besides Obee, other players who impressed the coaching staff included cornerbacks Lemuel Stinson and Jeremy Lincoln. Lincoln had six tackles, second only to Maurice Douglass' team-high 11,

and Stinson recorded two.

"Jeremy Lincoln's doing a heck of a job," Wannstedt said. "That guy's come from being a fast guy who never really played much to a guy who's been in there with the first group the last two weeks.

"Give him a little credit. Last week he lines up against Gary Clark and Randal Hill and tonight he's out there against Eric Martin.

"He's scrapping and he's trying like heck."



Bears fullback Craig Heyward won the battle of the free agent fullbacks. The former Saints runner gained 62 yards on 13 carries and delivered a couple of devastating blows. He also caught two passes for nine yards. One of the receptions he neatly scooped up near his toes just before it hit the turf.

On the flipside, ex-Bear fullback Brad Muster gained just six yards on five carries and didn't catch a pass for the Saints.



Despite facing a 10-0 halftime deficit,

the Bears were fired up coming out for the third quarter. That emotion was fueled when they scored a touchdown on their first possession of the second half.

"At halftime we talked about stopping them after we kicked off and then having the offense take the ball down and score," said Wannstedt. "When something like that happens, there's no question it gave the offense some confidence and it also gave the defense some confidence.

"We need to do that and we need to continue to do that."

Wannstedt was discouraged with defensive breakdowns late in the game.

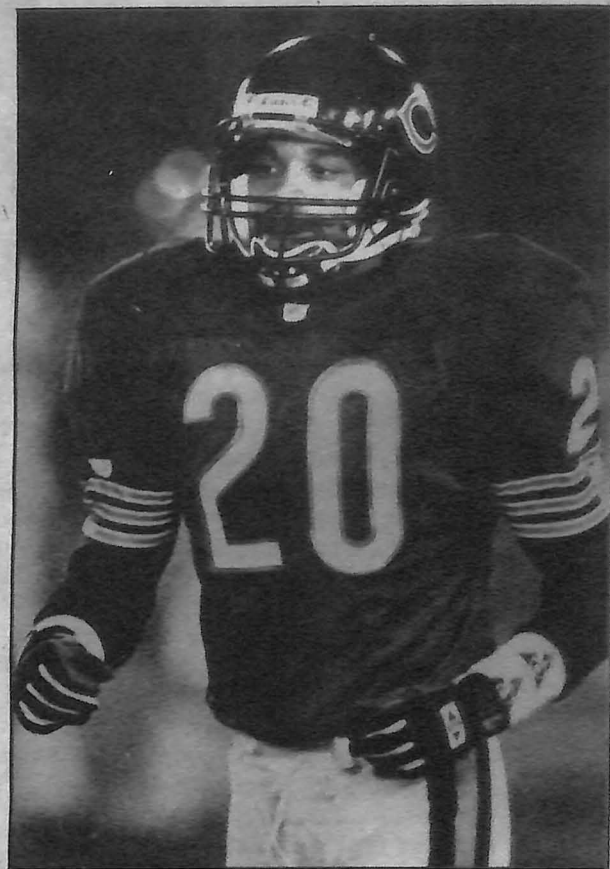
"There shouldn't be mistakes," Wannstedt said. "Is it inexperience? Maybe guys didn't know. Maybe they were playing a new position. All those things are factors, but they're not acceptable things. When you look at the films you gotta say who are they throwing on, who is getting beat?

The Bears outgained the Saints 368-333, including 119-56 on the ground. And better yet, the Bears' defense forced two turnovers. Safety Mark Carrier, who's having an excellent training camp, intercepted a Wade Wilson pass in the first half and returned it 42 yards. Late in the game, Alonzo Spellman stripped the ball from Saints running back Dalton Hilliard and Chris Zorich recovered deep in Chicago territory.

The two new players

acquired in the Cowboys trade weren't much of a factor. Vinson Smith made two tackles and rookie Barry Minter made one.

Speaking of trades, it looks like the Bears will not receive a conditional draft pick in the Stan Thomas deal. The Falcons cut Thomas Monday morning less than a week after acquiring him.



Bears safety Mark Carrier made his second interception of the preseason Monday night in New Orleans. (Bear Report file photo by Steve Woltmann)

Make The Call To 1-900-370-9696

And You Will Score With Bear News!

Available from the publishers of the BEAR REPORT is the No. 1 SUPER FOOTBALL HOTLINE for the Chicago Bears. Via the comfort of your home and your telephone, you can now access the latest BEARS information as it breaks on the field, in the locker room or in the front office. Our exclusive coverage team will be there to bring you the action as it happens.

The hotline will be updated three times each week by 6 p.m. Tuesdays, Thursdays and after each pre-season game. The SUPER BEAR REPORT FOOTBALL HOTLINE will become your most valued information source on the Chicago Bears. Give us a call!

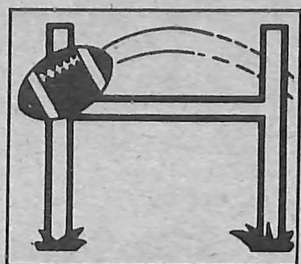
SERVICE AVAILABLE FOR ROTARY AND TOUCHTONE PHONES

\$2.00 for the first minute, \$1.00 additional minutes. Kids, check with your parents before calling.



Brought to you by...

Chicago
**BEAR
REPORT**



EXTRA POINTS

Injury bug bites where it hurts

By Larry Mayer
Managing Editor

PLATTEVILLE, Wis.— Hours after the Bears unloaded tight end **Kelly Blackwell** in a five-player trade to the Dallas Cowboys Tuesday morning, incumbent **Keith Jennings** tore a ligament in his knee when he collided with a defender during a passing drill. Jennings is expected to be out 4-6 weeks.

That leaves only rookie free agent **Ryan Wetnight** and recent acquisition **Danta Whitaker** as the only healthy tight ends. Third-round draft pick **Chris Gedney**, out with a broken collarbone, is expected to return for the third game of the regular season and could ultimately become the starter.

Wetnight has been the primary benefactor in Gedney's absence and will likely start with Jennings out.

"Wetnight has been very promising from the standpoint that he's a tight end who gives us a pass threat," said coach **Dave Wannstedt**.

Receiving is exactly what Wetnight has been concentrating on. He caught 54 passes for 384 yards last season at Stanford.

"They're utilizing me more as a receiver, so I have to get open and catch the ball," Wetnight said. "That's one thing I have to do every day."

Wetnight's only reception in the first two preseason games was a 27-yarder at Philadelphia. He'll get even more passes thrown his way if the injury woes continue to plague Bears wide receivers. Against Phoenix, **Anthony Morgan** and **Curtis Conway** got hurt six plays apart in the first quarter, and **Tom Waddle** was already out with a sore knee.

Morgan was released from Northwestern Memorial Hospital Wednesday morning after getting knocked unconscious by Cardinals safety **Chuck Cecil** in the Bears' 11-10 loss Aug. 14.

Morgan was kept for observation. All tests were negative. Morgan and Waddle returned to practice Thursday.

Other players who missed practice last week included Conway (ankle), cornerback **Anthony Blaylock** (hamstring), safety **John Mangum** (hamstring) and linebacker **Ron Cox** (ankle). Defensive tackle **William Perry** (knee) returned to practice. Those who remain out indefinitely include Gedney, defensive tackle **Tim Ryan** and guard **Tom Thayer**. Blaylock and Ryan are expected back by the season opener and Thayer is out until mid-season.



ANDERSON OUT: Halfback **Neal Anderson**, who has missed all three of the Bears' preseason games with a hamstring injury, says he shouldn't be considered the savior of the struggling running game.

"A lot of times there's penetration into the backfield and I know from past experience that I can't run with that either," said Anderson, who has not participated in contact drills in four weeks and decided on Thursday he would not play at New Orleans.

"I don't think bringing Neal Anderson back into the lineup is going to have a miraculous effect on the running game," he added. "We have to block and execute everything and then it'll open up for all the running backs."

The statistics after two preseason games told a grim story. The Bears had rushed for just 145 yards in two games. With Anderson out, starters **Darren Lewis** (21 carries, 37 yards) and **Craig Heyward** (5-9) were each averaging less than two yards per carry.

Bears players and coaches generally were not concerned with those numbers. Learning a new scheme takes time, but the Sept. 5 season opener against the New York Giants is rapidly approaching.

"The offense is new. We're still getting accustomed to it," Anderson explained. "It's everything. The line has to get better with the blocking schemes, the running backs have to learn to read the blocks a little better, and once the passing game gets better it'll open up the running game. It all goes hand-in-hand."

The running backs were a bit tentative in the preseason opener. But after watching film of the 11-10 loss to the Cardinals, Wannstedt was encouraged. Anderson and Lewis split reps in practice during the week preceding the New Orleans game.

"Darren Lewis and our running backs ran harder than they have in the past," he said. "We'll get Neal in there (in practice) this week and he'll be fine."



DEEE-FENSE: The Bears' defense continues to show positive signs. The unit has surrendered only one touchdown in its first eight preseason quarters. Wannstedt singled out a few players after viewing films of the loss to the Cardinals.

"I was very happy with **Jeremy Lincoln**," Wannstedt said. "I think he'll contribute this year. **Joe Cain** made some plays, **Mark Carrier** now has his confidence back, and **Richard Dent** went out and played. I take my hat off to that guy. For a guy who we really were concerned about three months ago, he's done everything. He hasn't missed a practice and he's performed and laid it on the line in these preseason games. That's going to lead to a great year for him."



ROSTER CUTS: The Bears trimmed their roster in advance of Tuesday afternoon's mandatory cutdown to 60 players. (Because of a strict deadline, we're unable to bring you Tuesday's cuts. But you can call our 900 line for up-to-the minute news. Check details on page 7.)

On Thursday, the Bears cut five players: linebackers **Rico Mack** and **Tim Paulk**, kicker **Scott Bonnell**, fullback **Greg Zomalt** and offensive tackle **Mike DeHoog**. The Bears now have 73 players in camp and must cut 13 more by Tuesday at 3 p.m. Chicago time.



MISSING WEAPONS: Quarterback **Jim Harbaugh** didn't have a particularly good game, but if you took away his six-shooter, even Dirty Harry wouldn't be that intimidating.

"In defense of Jim, we were short-handed," Wannstedt said. "We were worse personnel-wise because of injuries than we were a year ago at this time. Getting those guys back will help our quarterback situation. We're not a drop-back team that will throw it 50 times like the Dolphins."

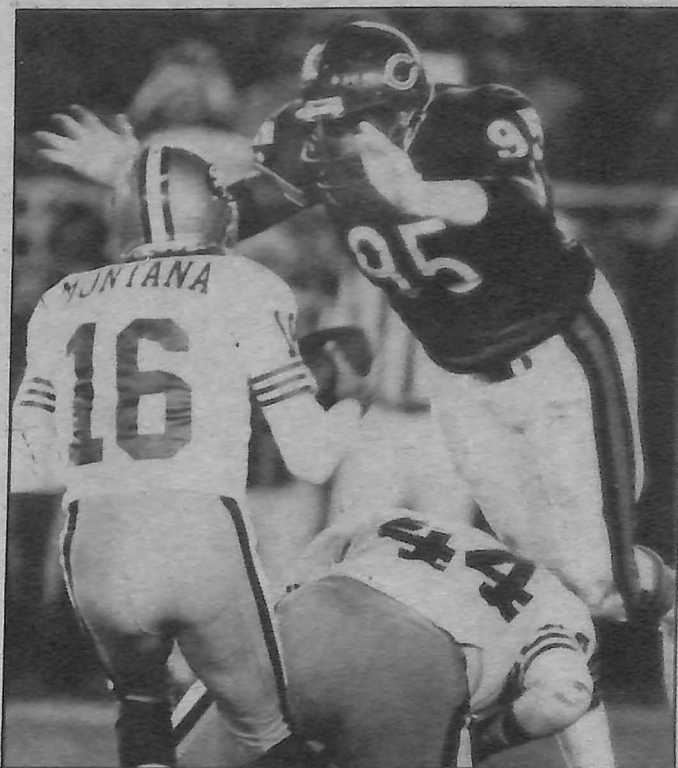
Despite the lack of targets, Wannstedt admitted Harbaugh must play better if the Bears are to improve. Harbaugh completed 6 of 11 for only 28 yards. Back-up **Peter Tom Willis** was steadier, connecting on 5 of 9 for 55 yards.

"Jim wasn't as sharp as he will be and what he wants to be," Wannstedt said. "He knows that. There's nothing right now that's alarming."

"P.T. did a nice job, but he was in there with the second group. You have to keep things in perspective a little bit there. P.T. operated with a lot of confidence. He was very sure of what was going on on our side and their side."

Will Furrer appears to rate a slight edge ahead of free agent rookie **Shane Matthews** for the third quarterback spot. Matthews saw only limited time against the Cardinals and was 0 of 1. Furrer did not play.

"Will's got the stronger arm and he's a



Dave Wannstedt is impressed with the play of **Richard Dent**, who hasn't missed a practice and has performed well in preseason games. (Bear Report file photo by Steve Woltmann)

little more experienced even though he hasn't played that much," Wannstedt said. "I would have liked to have gotten a better look at Shane, but it didn't work out that way."

Wannstedt said he won't play starters as long Friday night against Dallas in order to take a good look at some of the younger players in advance of the final cutdown to 47 on Aug. 30.



NEWS & NOTES: The Bears concluded their 10th training camp in Platteville with a Friday morning practice. They returned to Lake Forest Tuesday following their trip to New Orleans and have only two practice days to prepare for Friday night's game against the Dallas Cowboys at Soldier Field.

...Tickets remain available for Friday night's game against Dallas and for the regular season games against Denver (Dec. 18) and Detroit (Dec. 26). Call 708-615-BEAR (2327).

...Defensive end **Alonzo Spellman** missed Monday's practice sessions. He left camp to be with his mother after she was involved in a car accident. She's okay.

...With Conway hobbled by a sore ankle, free agent **Terry Obee** will be the Bears' primary punt returner. Obee, a return specialist at Oregon, returned two punts for 33 yards against the Cardinals. His special teams skills should give him the edge over **Eric Wright** for the club's fifth receiver spot behind Conway, Morgan, Waddle and **Wendell Davis**.

...Wannstedt stressed that the trade of **Stan Thomas** had nothing to do with his off-the-field problems as Thomas asserted. After getting in for just six plays at the tail end of the Bears' loss to the Cardinals, Thomas failed to show up for a mandatory meeting in Platteville Sunday night and demanded a trade. He was shipped to the Falcons for a conditional mid-round pick.

"He was having a tough time competing to make our football team," Wannstedt said. "When you start off with the first group the first day, then two weeks later you're with the third group, it's an uphill battle."

Things that make you go hmmm...

The lights inside the **McBubble**, the Bears indoor practice facility in **Waukegan**, came from the old **Comiskey Park**.

It may be a while before the Bears go back to Texas for top draft choices.

Trading Stan Thomas and John Roper last week represented the end of short Chicago careers for two of the biggest busts in recent Bears' draft history.

Dave Wannstedt and his staff could have told you so. While with the Cowboys, they got a close-up view of Thomas and never liked what they saw.

Thomas leaves as the first Bears' No. 1 draft choice to flop since Joe Moore in 1971. Even Moore had better excuses than Thomas. Ankle and knee injuries cut Moore's career to two years after he gained only 90 yards rushing. Lionel Antoine, also an injury victim, and Waymond Bryant were smashing successes compared with Thomas, who just plain couldn't play.

From the standpoint of talent demonstrated while wearing a Bears' uniform, Thomas must be mentioned in the same gasp as Mike Hull (1968) and Loyd Phillips (1967). But even Hull and Phillips lasted three years before the lethargic Bears admitted their mistakes.

Roper has more company among second-round flops. Over the years, the Bears have been notoriously poor choosers in round two, except for a few notables such as Mike Singletary, Matt Suhey, Mike Hartenstein, and Troy Auzenne.

Other second-rounders who didn't measure up over the years include Gary Huff, Mike Spivey, Rickey Watts, Reggie

THOMAS A RARE 1ST ROUND FLOP

DON PIERSON



Phillips, and Ron Morris. The jury remains out on Dante Jones, Ron Cox, and Chris Zorich, who finally get their chances this season.

Thomas's departure breaks an impressive string of success in the first round. The run from Walter Payton to Dennis Lick to Ted Albrecht to Dan Hampton and Al Harris to Otis Wilson to Keith Van Horne to Jim McMahon to Jimbo Covert and Willie Gault to Wilber Marshall to William Perry to Neal Anderson to Jim Harbaugh to Brad Muster and Wendell Davis to Donnell Woolford and Trace Armstrong to Mark Carrier was an unmatched list in the NFL and a great tribute to former personnel director Bill Tobin and his staff of scouts.

Everybody is allowed a mistake every decade or two, and Thomas was a big one. What makes his flop so disturbing to Bears' fans is that he was apparently chosen against the best judgement of the experts in the draft room.

Tobin and former coach Mike Ditka agree they were not excited about Thomas in the least. Tobin said he had a second or third-round grade. It was not a great year for offensive tackles and three had already been drafted by the Bears' turn at No. 22. They were Tennessee's Charles McRae to Tampa Bay, Tennessee teammate Antone Davis to Philadelphia, and USC's Pat

Harlow to New England.

But apparently, Bears' president Michael McCaskey pushed for an offensive tackle because of the loss of Jimbo Covert to injury and the age of Keith Van Horne. Former scout Jim Parmer liked Thomas too much and the decision was made to take him.

Interestingly, neither Davis nor McRae have set the world on fire in Tampa and Philadelphia, and Harlow suffered an injury after an outstanding rookie season. So far, the best offensive tackle in that draft turned out to be Eric Williams, a third-rounder from Central State in Ohio. The good news for the Bears is that Williams was drafted by the Cowboys and coached by Tony Wise, so the future looks brighter for Bear draftees.

Thomas was ranked among the top four tackles in 1991 by most draft experts, but he came with enough red flags attached to make him a chancy first-round pick. Here is what Mel Kiper said: "Still not as polished in pass protection as certain clubs may prefer, ranking as more of a long range type. Because of this, he qualifies as somewhat of a gamble on round one."

Joel Buchsbaum was even more on the money in Pro Football Weekly when ranking Thomas: "Big talker. Likes attention. May be self-centered. After his team got crushed by Miami in the Cotton Bowl, he said, 'Look at the films. If everybody else had played like I did, we'd have won. Period. I did what I was supposed to do. I had a pretty good game. But I can't play for 10 other guys.' Lacks great body quickness and feet. A little stiff in the upper body. Slow out of stance. Can be beaten to the corner. Has some trouble with a quick inside move or hard outside rush. Has to be a right tackle or a guard and could be a good one if he shuts up and just plays football."

In Atlanta, Thomas will get another

chance.

Buchsbaum was also correct on Roper before the draft when he reported: "Read too many of his press clippings and did not play up to expectations as a senior. Lacks height. Long-strider who had difficulty turning into the quarterback on a blitz. Has trouble shedding and coming off blocks. Does not like to lift weights. Work habits could be better. Cost himself a lot of money by reading too many of his press clippings. Not nearly as good as he thinks he is, but he has talent. Should spend more time in the weight room. Must show he will pay the price."

Contrast Roper's report card with the brief bio Buchsbaum had on Vinson Smith before the 1988 draft, when he signed as a free agent with Atlanta: "Active and athletic. Plays and hits hard. Lacks size. Too small but too tough to overlook."

In the Dallas press guide, Smith is praised as "no better example of the Cowboys' blue-collar 'get the job done' style of defense. An unheralded performer who has taken the long road to the ranks of a Super Bowl starter."

Why Jimmy Johnson might prefer Roper over Smith is a puzzling question only time will answer.

It should be noted that Buchsbaum did not write highly of Barry Minter in last year's pre-draft notebook, questioning his instincts and talent as a linebacker.

Rebuilding is always fun and Wannstedt has made it clear he is starting at linebacker, where fans will need a program after the departure of Singletary, Ron Rivera, and now Roper.

Don Pierson covers the Bears and the NFL for the Chicago Tribune.



The Stan Thomas saga is over in Chicago. The 1991 first-round draft pick was shipped to Atlanta last week for a mid-round draft pick.

BEAR & NFL FOOTBALL FANS

SUBSCRIBE & RECEIVE **6 FREE PRO NEWSLETTERS** -10 PGS.

DRAFT INSIDERS' DIGEST

THE MOST ACCURATE AND COMPREHENSIVE COVERAGE OF THE NFL SEASON & DRAFT
TOP 600 COLLEGE PLAYERS RATED-TOP 30 TEAMS RATED
ALL NFL TEAMS ANALYZED--SPECIAL PLAYER SECTIONS

FOUR TOP PUBLICATIONS THRU THE YEAR

ORDER NOW!!!

1. SIX NEWSLETTERS- 10 PAGES EACH- SEPT. '93 THRU FEB. '94 NFL ANALYSIS, COLLEGE PLAYERS EVALUATED, COLLEGE TOP 30-MONTHLY	\$19.95
2. '94 DRAFT INSIDERS' DIGEST "YEARBOOK"- LATE MARCH '94 MOST ACCURATE DRAFT ANALYSIS IN THE NATION- OVER 100 PAGES- TOP 600 PLAYERS RATED, DRAFT PROJECTIONS FOR ALL PLAYERS, ALL 28 NFL TEAMS EVALUATED, OVER 300 PLAYER PROFILES, SPECIAL PLAYER SECTIONS, SMALL COLLEGE PLAYERS IN DEPTH, MOCK DRAFT-SEVEN ROUNDS	\$19.95
3. '94 DRAFT INSIDERS' DIGEST "UPDATE"- LATE APRIL '94 LATEST DRAFT AND FREE AGENT NEWS, WORKOUTS, COLLEGE PLAYERS MOVING UP, NFL TRADE RUMORS, SPECIAL PLAYER SECTIONS, FINAL MOCK DRAFT	\$7.95
4. '94 DRAFT INSIDERS' DIGEST "REVIEW"- JUNE '94 ALL 28 NFL TEAMS RATED ON THE DRAFT, COMPLETE FREE AGENCY UPDATES, ROOKIE FREE AGENTS SIGNING, NFL PRE TRAINING CAMP REPORTS	\$11.95

MAIL CHECK or MONEY ORDER

DRAFT INSIDERS' DIGEST

P.O. BOX 702
RED BANK, N.J. 07701

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE

VISA/ MASTER CARD CALL (908) 842-4749 TOTAL \$59.80

SPECIAL OFFER TIL SEPT. 15 \$39.95

BEAR DOWN

CHICAGO BEARS

vs.

MINNESOTA VIKINGS

SUPER DELUXE WEEKEND

Sept. 11 & 12

\$169⁰⁰ *Per Person
*Based on
Double
Occupancy

PACKAGE INCLUDES:
CROWN STERLING SUITES
ST. PAUL, MN

LUXURIOUS TWO ROOM SUITES

- 2 COLOR TELEVISION WITH CABLE IN ALL SUITES
- 2 DUAL-LINE TELEPHONES WITH VOICE MAIL EACH SUITE
- WET BAR, REFRIGERATOR, MICROWAVE AND COFFEE MAKER EACH SUITE
- PULL OUT SLEEPER IN ALL LIVING ROOMS
- COMPLIMENTARY FULL, COOKED-TO-ORDER BREAKFAST
- COMPLIMENTARY COCKTAILS AND BEVERAGES FROM 5:30 P.M. TILL 7:30 P.M.
- HEATED POOL WITH WHIRLPOOL, SAUNA AND STEAM ROOM

- ALL TRANSPORTATION ON LUXURIOUS MOTOR COACH
- GAMBLING CASINO SATURDAY EVENING OPTIONAL
- RESERVED SEAT FOR FOOTBALL GAME
- MALL OF AMERICA SATURDAY AFTERNOON

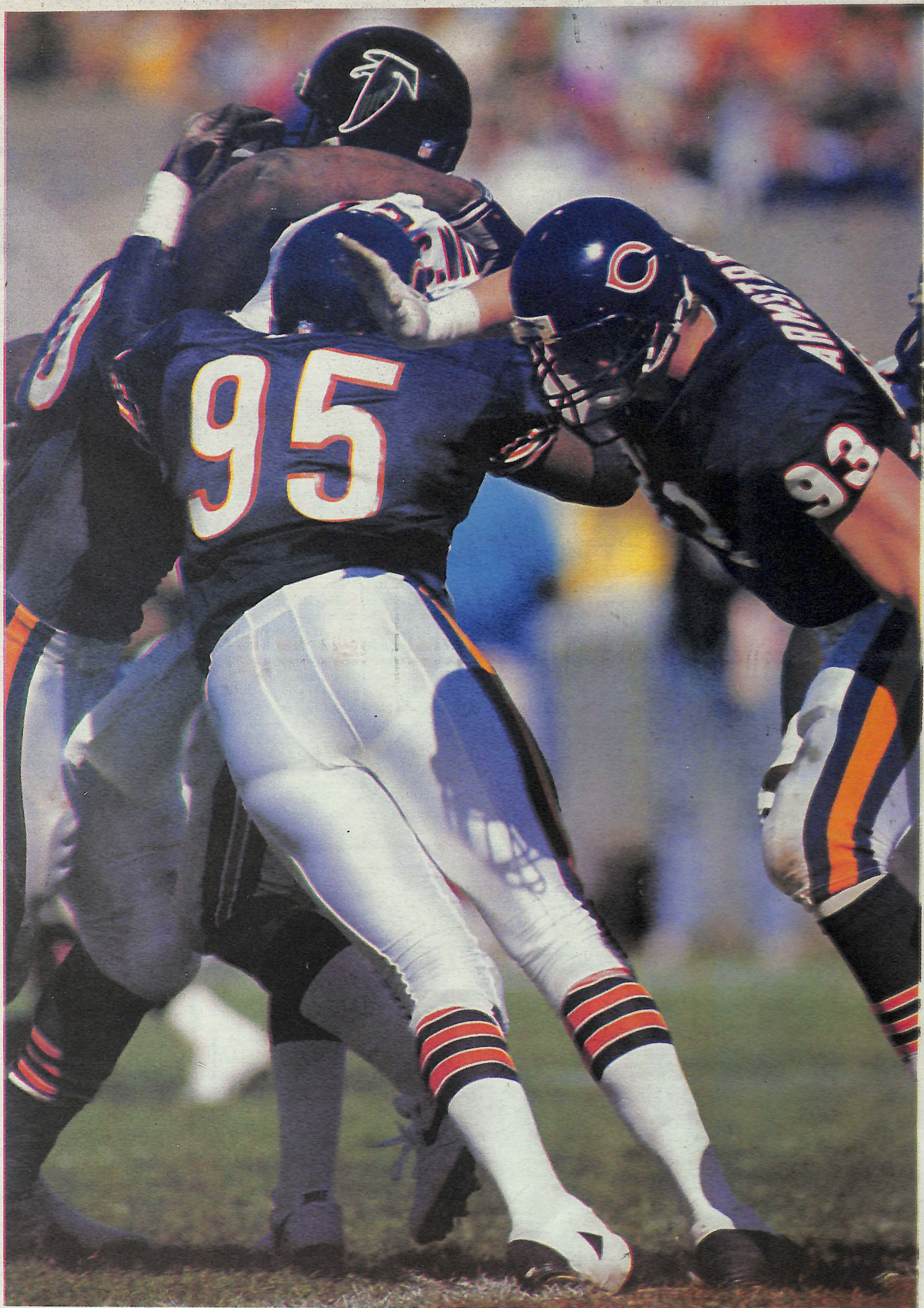
PLUS MANY MORE TRIPS!



MALL OF AMERICA

Phone (815) 874-2287

4:00-10:00 p.m.



Krazy Kirk's
**GREATEST
FOOTBALL CONTEST
ON EARTH**

\$1,000,000.

In Cash Prizes

Hey Football Lovers! Kick-off begins Sept. 5th.
Register Now for 18 weeks of Fun-Filled Football!

THE KICK-OFF:

All registered members will receive a package containing a valid PIN number, the official rules, a 1993 Pro Football game schedule and an easy to follow playing guide.

THE GAME PLAN:

To be eligible to play by phone, call the 800 number below to register for your personal phone account for just \$9.95 for each week you choose to play **OR** a one time seasonal fee of \$89.95 (less than \$5 per week)! Seasonal accounts receive a FREE 1993 Limited Edition T-Shirt. Major credit cards are accepted for phone entries. To be eligible to play by mail, write the word Register in the upper right hand corner, your name, address and telephone number on a 3X5 card (no purchase necessary) and send to the address below.

All telephone & mail registrations must be received between July 15th - Dec. 29th, 1993.
Mail registrants allow 10 days for delivery of PIN number.

THE PLAY:

Pick the winning teams for the week's Sunday and Monday games and predict whether the combined scores will be over or under 37 1/2 points.

THE PAY-OFFS:

\$1,000,000.00 IN CASH PRIZES

\$50,000.00 PAID WEEKLY

\$100,000.00 GRAND PRIZE DRAWING

Each week of play allows you one entry in the Grand Prize drawing.
That's 18 chances to WIN BIG!

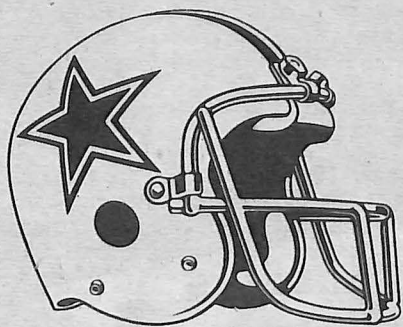
THE CALL:

The rules are simple, and there are no referees! YOU MAKE THE CALL:

1-800-884-3838 EXT 821

For a complete copy of rules send a self-addressed stamped envelope to: Krazy Kirk's Contest, 3111 S. Valley View, Suite B 101, Las Vegas, NV 89102.
Must be 18 years or older. Void in LA and GA and where prohibited by law.





Dallas Cowboys

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	Yr.	College
1	David Lucas	WR	5-10	155	23	1	Florida A&M
2	Lin Elliott	K	6-0	182	24	2	Texas Tech
3	Tim Daniel	WR	5-11	192	23	2	Florida A&M
7	Hugh Millen	QB	6-5	216	29	8	Washington
8	Troy Aikman	QB	6-4	222	26	5	UCLA
11	Brad Bretz	QB	6-4	218	22	R	Cal St.-Hayward
17	Jason Garrett	QB	6-2	195	26	1	Princeton
19	John Jett	P	6-0	184	24	1	East Carolina
21	Michael Beasley	RB	5-10	195	24	1	West Virginia
22	Emmitt Smith	RB	5-9	209	24	4	Florida
23	Robert Williams	DB	5-10	186	30	7	Baylor
24	Larry Brown	CB	5-11	185	23	3	TCU
25	Derrick Lassic	RB	5-10	192	23	R	Alabama
26	Kevin Smith	CB	5-11	177	22	2	Texas A&M
27	Thomas Everett	S	5-9	183	28	7	Baylor
28	Darren Woodson	S	6-1	215	24	2	Arizona St.
29	Kenneth Gant	S	5-11	191	25	4	Albany St.
30	E.D. Jackson	RB	5-10	205	23	R	Arkansas
31	Brock Marion	CB	5-11	178	23	R	Nevada-Reno
32	Judd Garrett	RB	6-2	220	26	1	Princeton
34	Tommie Agee	FB	6-0	227	29	7	Auburn
35	Mike Middleton	S	5-10	211	23	R	Indiana
37	James Washington	S	6-1	203	28	6	UCLA
38	Chris Hall	S	6-2	184	23	1	East Carolina
39	Derrick Galner	RB	5-11	240	27	3	Florida A&M
40	Bill Bates	S	6-1	203	32	11	Tennessee
41	Dave Thomas	CB	6-2	205	24	R	Tennessee
42	Greg Briggs	S	6-3	212	24	2	Texas Southern
43	Tony Kennedy	RB	5-11	212	23	R	Virginia Tech
44	Lincoln Coleman	FB	6-1	245	24	R	Baylor
46	Jason Burleson	TE	6-5	243	24	R	Texas
47	Clayton Holmes	CB	5-10	181	23	2	Carson-Newman
48	Daryl Johnston	FB	6-2	238	27	5	Syracuse
49	Todd Young	TE	6-5	269	26	2	Penn St.
50	Bobby Abrams	LB	6-3	230	26	4	Michigan
51	Ken Norton	LB	6-2	251	26	6	UCLA
52	Mickey Pruitt	LB	6-1	218	28	6	Colorado
53	Mark Stepnoski	C	6-2	269	26	5	Pittsburgh
55	Robert Jones	LB	6-2	238	23	2	East Carolina
57	Vinson Smith	LB	6-2	237	28	6	East Carolina
58	Dixon Edwards	LB	6-1	224	25	3	Michigan St.
59	Darrin Smith	LB	6-1	237	23	R	Miami, FL
60	Melvin Evans	G	6-2	303	24	2	Texas Southern
61	Nate Newton	G	6-3	303	31	8	Florida A&M
62	Alan Luther	G	6-3	305	23	R	Texas
63	John Gasek	G	6-5	282	30	7	Cal. Sacramento
65	Ron Stone	T	6-5	306	22	R	Boston College
66	Kevin Gogan	G/T	6-7	319	28	7	Washington
67	Russell Maryland	DT	6-1	275	24	3	Miami, FL
68	Frank Cornish	C/G	6-4	285	25	4	UCLA
69	Todd Jones	T	6-3	295	26	2	Henderson St.
70	Dale Hellestrae	G/C	6-5	283	31	9	SMU
71	Mark Tuinei	T	6-5	298	32	11	Hawaii
72	Casey Gamble	DL	6-4	270	27	R	Panhandle St.
73	Brian Nielsen	G	6-3	300	26	1	Texas A&I
74	Everett McIver	DT	6-6	335	23	R	Elizabeth City St.
75	Tony Casillas	DT	6-3	273	29	8	Oklahoma
76	Fletcher Rudisill	DL	6-4	270	27	R	Hudson Val. C.C.
77	Jim Jeffcoat	DE	6-5	276	31	11	Arizona St.
78	Leon Lett	DL	6-8	292	24	3	Emporia St.
79	Erik Williams	T	6-6	321	24	3	Central St., OH
80	Alvin Harper	WR	6-3	207	26	3	Tennessee
82	Jimmy Smith	WR	6-1	205	24	2	Jackson St.
83	Greg Reed	WR	6-1	183	22	R	S. Mississippi
84	Jay Novacek	TE	6-4	231	30	9	Wyoming
85	Kevin Williams	WR	5-9	190	22	R	Miami, FL
86	Tyrone Williams	WR	6-5	207	22	1	W. Ontario
87	Alfredo Roberts	TE	6-3	251	28	6	Miami, FL
88	Michael Irvin	WR	6-2	199	27	6	Miami, FL
89	Fallon Wacasey	TE	6-7	263	23	1	Tulsa
90	Tony Hill	DE	6-6	255	24	3	Ten.Chattanooga
91	Barry Minter	LB	6-2	236	23	R	Tulsa
92	Tony Tolbert	DE	6-6	265	25	5	Texas-El Paso
93	Reggie Givens	S	6-0	219	21	R	Penn State
94	Charles Haley	DE	6-5	245	29	8	James Madison
95	Chad Hennings	DT	6-6	292	27	2	Air Force
96	Rob Wagner	DT	6-4	265	24	R	N. Illinois
97	Jimmie Jones	DL	6-4	276	27	4	Miami, FL
98	Godfrey Myles	LB	6-1	242	24	3	Florida

Facts and Figures

Kickoff: 8 p.m. Chicago time, Sun., Aug. 27.

Site: Soldier Field, Chicago, Ill.

Capacity: 66,950

Playing Surface: Natural grass

Last meeting: Bears lost 27-14 at Dallas, Dec. 27, 1992.

Last preseason meeting: Bears won 20-13 at Dallas, Aug. 28, 1992.

Series history: Cowboys lead 10-6. Bears had lost six straight, then won three in a row before losing last season.

Radio-TV coverage: Game will be televised live in Chicago on WMAQ Channel 5. It will then be rebroadcast following "Saturday Night Live."

The game will also be carried live on WGN Radio and the Bears Radio Network.

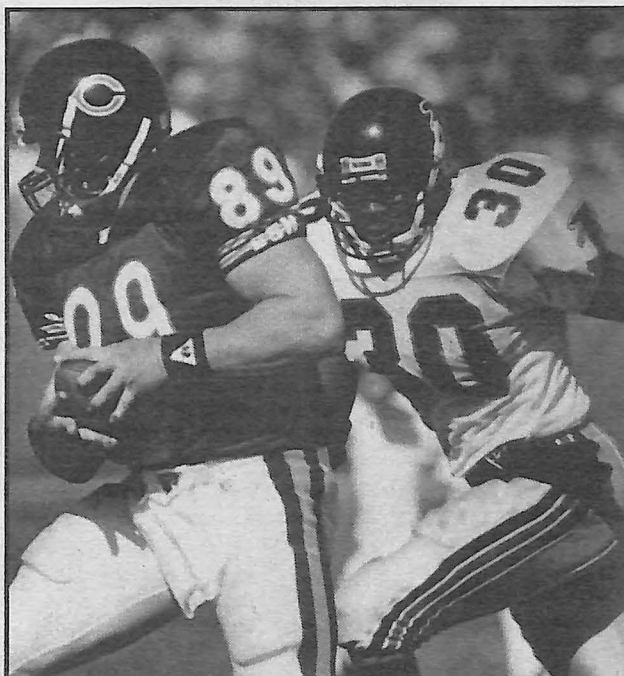
Wannstedt set for tussle with former team

Don't be alarmed if Bears coach Dave Wannstedt heads for the wrong sideline Friday night at Soldier Field. Wannstedt's roots with the Cowboys and Jimmy Johnson run deep.

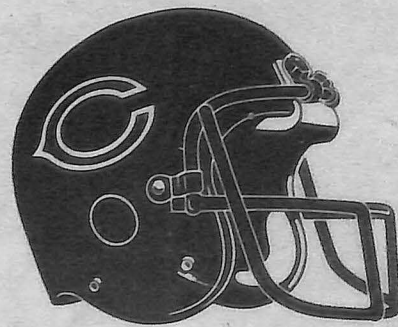
That in itself will add some extra flavor to the Bears' final preseason game. Additionally, both teams will be out to prove that last week's five-player trade was a good deal.

Aside from being the final tuneup for the starters, this game is the last opportunity for players on the bubble to show they belong in the NFL.

As a result, Wannstedt says he won't play his starters as much as the previous week. The Bears will take a closer look at rookies such as Carl Simpson and Myron Baker on defense and Curtis Conway and Ryan Wetnight on offense.



Tight end Kelly Blackwell, traded to the Cowboys from the Bears last Tuesday, has an excellent chance of sticking in Dallas as Jay Novacek's primary backup. (Bear Report file photo by Steve Woltmann)



Chicago Bears

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age*	Yr.	College
2	Will Furrer	QB	6-3	209	25	2	Virginia Tech
4	Jim Harbaugh	QB	6-3	215	29	7	Michigan
6	Kevin Butler	K	6-1	190	30	9	Georgia
9	Shane Matthews	QB	6-3	192	23	R	Florida
10	Peter Tom Willis	QB	6-2	204	26	4	Florida State
11	Troy Faunce	P	6-2	195	29	1	Kansas State
16	Antonio Johnson	WR/KR	5-8	195	24	R	Syracuse
17	Chris Gardocki	P/K	6-1	196	23	3	Clemson
18	Terry Obee	WR	5-10	188	25	1	Oregon
19	Larry Wynn	WR	6-1	181	21	R	Northem Illinois
20	Mark Carrier	S	6-1	192	25	4	USC
21	Donnell Woolford	CB	5-9	185	27	5	Clemson
22	Dewell Brewer	HB	5-8	203	23	R	Oklahoma
23	Shaun Gayle	S	5-11	202	31	10	Ohio State
24	Richard Fain	CB	5-10	180	25	3	Florida
25	Keshon Johnson	CB	5-10	177	23	R	Arizona
26	John Mangum	S	5-10	178	26	4	Alabama
27	Matt Goodwin	CB	6-1	223	23	R	Iowa State
29	Tracy Saul	S	5-10	179	22	R	Texas Tech
30	Carlos Fleeks	HB	6-0	200	22	R	Hampton
31	Mark Green	RB	5-11	190	26	5	Notre Dame
32	Lemuel Stinson	CB	5-9	180	27	6	Texas Tech
33	Darren Lewis	RB	5-10	225	24	3	Texas A & M
35	Neal Anderson	RB	5-11	215	29	8	Florida
37	M. Douglass	S	5-11	202	29	7	Kentucky
39	Jeremy Lincoln	CB	5-10	184	24	2	Tennessee
43	Kenny Wilhite	CB	5-8	189	23	R	Nebraska
44	Bob Christian	RB	5-10	225	24	1	Northwestern
45	Craig Heyward	FB	5-11	260	26	6	Pittsburgh
46	John Ivlow	FB	5-11	226	23	R	Colorado State
47	Tony Blaylock	CB	5-10	185	28	6	Winston-Sal. St.
51	Jim Morrissey	LB	6-3	225	30	9	Michigan State
52	Jim Schwantz	LB	6-2	232	23	1	Purdue
53	Dante Jones	LB	6-1	238	28	6	Oklahoma
54	Ron Cox	LB	6-2	235	25	4	Fresno State
55	Vinson Smith	LB	6-2	237	28	6	East Carolina
57	Tom Thayer	G	6-4	284	32	9	Notre Dame
58	J. Leeuwenburg	G/C	6-2	290	24	2	Colorado
59	Joe Cain	LB	6-1	233	28	5	Oregon Tech
62	Mark Bortz	G	6-6	282	32	11	Iowa
63d	Dave Hoffmann	LB	6-2	229	23	R	Washington
63a	Todd Burger	G	6-3	266	23	R	Penn State
64d	Barry Minter	LB	6-2	236	23	R	Tulsa
64a	Mirko Jurkovic	G	6-3	290	23	2	Notre Dame
65	Myron Baker	LB	6-1	221	22	R	Louisiana Tech
67	Jerry Fontenot	G/C	6-3	287	26	5	Texas A & M
68	Garland Hawkins	DE	6-3	232	23	R	Syracuse
69	Vernice Smith	G	6-3	298	27	5	Florida A & M
70	Troy Auzenne	T	6-7	290	24	2	California
71	James Williams	T	6-7	335	25	3	Cheyney St.
72	William Perry	DT	6-2	335	30	9	Clemson
73	J. Wojciechowski	G/T	6-4	280	30	7	Michigan State
74d	Albert Fontenot	DE	6-4	260	22	R	Baylor
74a	Tony Nichols	T	6-4	290	22	R	San Diego State
75	Todd Perry	G	6-5	291	22	R	Kentucky
76	Steve McMichael	DT	6-2	268	35	14	Texas
78	Keith Van Home	T	6-6	290	35	13	USC
79	Louis Age	T	6-7	350	23	2	SW Louisiana
80	Curtis Conway	WR/KR	6-0	185	22	R	USC
81	Anthony Morgan	WR	6-1	195	25	3	Tennessee
82	Wendell Davis	WR	5-11	188	27	6	LSU
83	Eric Wright	WR	6-0	203	24	2	Steph. E. Austin
84	Chris Gedney	TE	6-5	254	23	R	Syracuse
85	Keith Jennings	TE	6-4	260	27	4	Clemson
87	Tom Waddle	WR	6-0	185	26	4	Boston College
88	Danta Whitaker	TE	6-4	245	29	4	Miss. Val. St.
89	Ryan Wetnight	TE	6-2	225	22	R	Stanford
90	Alonzo Spellman	DE	6-4	282	21	2	Ohio State
93	Trace Armstrong	DE	6-4	265	27	5	Florida
94	Frank Kmet	DT	6-3	289	23	1	Purdue
95	Richard Dent	DE	6-5	265	32	11	Tennessee St.
96	Reggie Cooper	LB	6-2	215	25	2	Nebraska
97	Chris Zorich	DT	6-1	284	24	3	Notre Dame
98	Carl Simpson	DT	6-2	278	23	R	Florida State
99	Tim Ryan	DT	6-4	265	25	4	USC

*Age as of Opening Day, 1993

Note: Roster does not reflect Aug. 24 cuts. For information on cuts call 1-900-370-9696. (\$2 for first minute, \$1 each additional minute)



Trace Armstrong admits that one of his biggest faults is not listening to medical personnel and playing hurt. As a result, he has been unduly criticized during his four-year career with the Bears. When healthy, Armstrong

has been productive. He has recorded 23 career sacks, including 10 in 1990. Now healthy, he's preparing for a big season in 1993. (Bear Report file photo by Steve Woltmann)

Armstrong ready to bust out

In sickness and in health, Trace Armstrong has buckled up his chin strap for the Bears the past four years.

"I guess my first goal would be to stay healthy and make it through the 16 games," said Armstrong. "That is the main thing for me. I want to be able to play hard and not worry about whether my knee is going to blow out that Sunday or not."

A first-round draft pick of the Bears in 1989, Armstrong has missed only seven games as a pro. But recurring knee and ankle problems have limited his productivity.

The dilemma for any professional athlete is whether to play hurt, at less than 100 percent efficiency, or sit out a game to recuperate.

"One of my biggest faults as a player is that I don't listen when (trainer) Fred Caito or Dr. (Michael) Schafer advise me to do something. I usually don't take their advice. As a consequence, I have probably taken some bad injuries and made them a lot worse by going out and practicing every day and trying to play on Sundays. If I had listened to them earlier, I probably would not have had the prolonged problems that I had," said Armstrong.

"I figure that if I can walk I can run. And if I can run, I can go out and play. That is the way I have always looked at it."

While he is yet to emerge as a major impact player, Armstrong has contributed a respectable 23 sacks in his first four seasons, including 10 in 1990.

FRED MITCHELL



Coach Dave Wannstedt's new defense should enhance the chances of every Bears defender to make more big plays.

"I like all of it. It is just more attack-oriented," said Armstrong. "From a front standpoint, it is a lot simpler. They allow the players to adjust on the field as opposed to on the sidelines. I am excited about all phases of the defense."

"I think this type of scheme fits into what our guys do the best. Richard Dent is an up-the-field guy and this scheme gives him the chance to do that on every down. Steve McMichael still has a lot of quickness and explosiveness. This allows him to get down the field and get into the gap. I think we can be very productive."

One of the concepts of the Bears' new defense is to continually rotate fresh bodies into the lineup to wear down the opposition. Defensive end Alonzo Spellman is pushing both Armstrong and Richard Dent for a starting assignment.

"Chris Zorich is having a great camp. Alonzo Spellman is having a good camp. Albert Fontenot looks good, and so does

Carl Simpson," said Armstrong. "So we have a lot of depth there and I expect you will see a lot of guys play this year."

"Everybody has got to prove themselves. They don't care who you are or what you do. How many Super Bowls you were in. All they care about is if you perform and if you make plays. Everybody has got to push and take their game to another level."

Like most first-round draft picks who do not produce dramatic numbers early in their career, Armstrong has had his share of critics already.

"This is what I wanted to do all my life. I give it all my effort, and in the end I am not really concerned about what anybody else says," he said. "I am concerned about how I feel I performed. Long after I am gone from Chicago I am going to have to look at this and have a feeling about it one way or another. That is the thing that is most important."

"The thing that bothers me when I hear criticism is that they think you don't care or that you are not trying. And that is the part that bothers me a little bit. But I can't control that," said Armstrong.

Armstrong signed a three-year contract last spring that will pay him nearly \$1 million a season. With the new free agency system, Armstrong realizes he might be able to position himself to make even more with the Bears or another team when this contract expires. But money doesn't seem to be his main motivation.

"I think that as soon as you start to look at it that way, you are on your way out. I have been playing this game a certain way

since I was six or seven years old. I can't change now and change my philosophy," he said.

Armstrong, who began attending law school last offseason, and former Bears linebacker Ron Rivera were the team's player representatives the past couple of years.

"I am on the executive council. We don't have a player rep. I don't know if anyone wants that job. I am taking applications," said Armstrong.

Fred Mitchell covers the Bears for the Chicago Tribune.



**Hemisphere
Travel, Inc.**

**Minn. Vikings vs. Da Bears
Sept. 11-13,**

3-day, 2-night coach tour, includes deluxe motorcoach transportation, 2 nights accommodations at the Crown Sterling Suites within 4 blocks of stadium, 2 made-to-order full breakfasts, pop and sandwiches on bus going up, 2 hour cocktail receptions, on Sat. and Sun., Mystic Lake Casino Gambling, Mall of America Option.

\$285.00 per person based on 4 in a spacious suite.

For more information contact:

Heidi Jones, Hemisphere Travel, Inc.
694 Milwaukee Ave., Prospect Heights, IL.

(708) 541-7575 or (312) 631-1344

Trade a win-win situation

Last week's trade between the Bears and the Cowboys should benefit both

DOUG BUFFONE



teams, a rare occurrence in sports. One team usually gets the better of the deal, but I don't think that will be the case with this trade.

In Vinson Smith the Bears picked up a guy who started 13 games for the world champions and probably knows Dave Wannstedt's system better than any player on the Chicago Bears. The Bears really needed help at linebacker, and it looks like there will be some shuffling at that crucial position.

Ron Cox and Vinson Smith both got some reps at middle linebacker last week. Who will be affected most by the trade? It

could be Cox, Dante Jones or Joe Cain. Wannstedt has said that he will play the best three linebackers in a given situation. That could mean a lot of rotating.

This trade was crucial for the Bears because they solidified the position. The defensive line has been performing well and the defensive backs are solid although Anthony Blaylock remains out with a hamstring injury. The Bears know their defense must be strong early in the season before the offense kicks into gear.

Both Smith and Barry Minter have great speed and fit perfectly into Wannstedt's system. The Bears sent some

quality players to Dallas in Kelly Blackwell, Markus Paul and John Roper. But what I can't understand is why Dallas wanted Roper. He's not a Dallas-type linebacker or a Bears-type linebacker either. Maybe they're going to convert him into a pass rush specialist who only plays on third down or make him a defensive end opposite Charles Haley. They may also plan to trade him again to acquire a running back if Emmitt Smith continues to holdout for more money.

From the Cowboys' point of view, I think Paul was the key to the trade. He's a talented safety who will compete for a starting job. With Blackwell, the Cowboys are getting a quality backup to tight end Jay Novacek. They really needed him, too. All of their tight ends beside Novacek have been injured.

The reason I think this trade will benefit both teams is because of Wannstedt and Jimmy Johnson. They're friends and this was an honest trade. By that I mean neither one of them was trying to unload damaged goods or dupe the other team, which often happens in professional sports.

Jimmy Johnson wouldn't have made this trade with anybody else, but it's not like he's giving anything away. I don't care how good friends you are, you want to improve your football team.

Will there be more trades for the Bears? There just may be, but you can't trade just to trade. Dallas made a lot of deals when Jimmy Johnson and Jerry Jones first took over. But they had Herschel Walker to trade away. There's not a player on the Bears right now that would command that type of ransom.

The key is about what you're going to give up. There may not be any more trades in the immediate future because roster cuts are coming up. If teams know you're going to get rid of a guy, why would they give something up for him? If they wait they can get him a lot cheaper.

William Perry may be the next to go. He's a player the Bears have to make a decision on. They also have to make a decision about which linebackers to keep and where guys like Louis Age and Vernice Smith fit in on the offensive line, if anywhere.

Speaking of the offensive line, the Bears, of course, said goodbye to Stan Thomas last week. Obviously, he had talent as a college football player. But you've got to upgrade that talent and get better. Stan went in the opposite direction.

There were a lot of factors that led to his demise. Maybe he was thrown into the fire too quickly, maybe he was being asked to play a strange position, maybe he was in Mike Ditka's doghouse. Those are all logical reasons, except that he was given a fresh start this year under Wannstedt. And he still didn't make it, which tells me he just didn't have it.

Had he shown any progress whatsoever in training camp they wouldn't have let him go. But he didn't. Last year you could understand part of it, but it seemed Stan would always blame someone else for his problems: the officials have something against him, the coach doesn't like him, etc.

Then this season he has a great opportunity and what does he show? Nothing. When a converted defensive tackle can beat you out, you've got a long way to go. Thomas is a long shot to ever make it in this league.

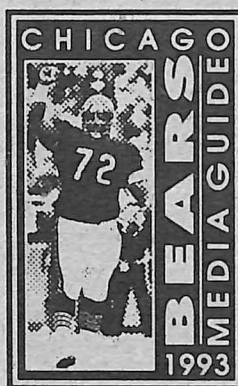
Doug Buffone hosts the Doug Buffone Sports Magazine Sunday mornings on SportsChannel.



THE BEAR ESSENTIALS

For 18 years the **BEAR REPORT** media guide absolutely **FREE** with has been at each game, in the locker room, on the sidelines and in the huddle, bringing you every quote, every run, every tackle, every pass, providing you with all the latest information on the Bears, 26 times a year! Plus you'll get the Bears 1993 official

your paid subscription. So order your **BEAR REPORT** today for only \$29.95 — that's a savings of over \$22.00 off the regular newsstand price — and we'll send you 26 issues of the **BEAR REPORT** and the 1993 Bear Media Guide!



YES! SEND ME MY FREE MEDIA GUIDE

☐ New Subscription ☐ Renewal
☐ Payment Enclosed ☐ Bill Me Later ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard ☐ Discover Card

Card Number _____ Exp. Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

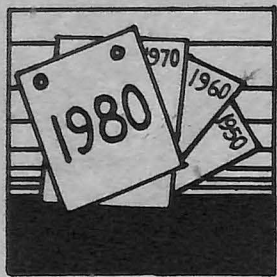
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

MAIL TO: BEAR REPORT, 112 Market Street, Sun Prairie, WI 53590

CALL TOLL FREE 1-800-728-6501

Sign me up to **BEAR REPORT** for 26 issues and send me my **FREE Media Guide**. I understand the Media Guide offer expires Sept. 6, 1993 and that my subscription of \$29.95 must be paid in full. I will receive 26 issues in all, plus the **FREE Media Guide**. One year, 26 issues, \$29.95.

HA93-4



WHERE ARE THEY NOW...

Fortunato durable and productive during pro career

By Larry Mayer
Managing Editor

Walter Payton isn't the only player to have a long distinguished career with the Bears while missing only one game due to injury. Joe Fortunato, a rugged linebacker with the Bears from 1955-66, also missed only one game with an injury.

"Playing in every game but one in 12 years is something I'm really proud of," said Fortunato, 63, now president of an oil and gas exploration company in Natchez, Mississippi.

Fortunato wasn't only durable, he was highly productive. He was named an NFL All-Pro in 1958, 1962, 1963, 1964 and 1965. He was a Sporting News All-League selection in 1958 and 1963 and remains second all-time in NFL history behind Minnesota's Jim Marshall with 22 fumble recoveries by an opponent.

His greatest thrill was serving as captain on the 1963 Bears team that won the World Championship. He has several poignant memories from that super season, but two stand out.

"There are quite a few of them, but the ones I remember most are Mike Ditka's famous catch and run that set up a field goal against Pittsburgh, and when we beat Green Bay 26-7 in a game we needed to win," said Fortunato, also a part-time fullback. "We had a shutout going until the last few minutes."

Fortunato gained business experience throughout his career with the Bears. He worked in the off-season to make extra money while building a foundation for life after football. In 1966 he played in the preseason but retired as a player and served as a coach through 1968. Fortunato

and a partner have been in business in Mississippi ever since. The name of his company is suitably "Big Joe's Oil Company."

Fortunato was born in Mingo Junction, Ohio. He attended Mississippi State University and has made his home there ever since. He graduated in 1952 but served in the armed forces for two years during the Korean War before joining the Bears in 1955.

He made a big splash in his first game, an exhibition against a team of college all-stars. He doesn't regret postponing his professional football career to serve his country.

"Who knows, I could have went up there and got cut in 1953," he said. "Everything worked out the way it worked out. Maybe that's the way the Lord wanted it. I came in and we had 12 linebackers in camp, but I was fortunate to have a good game against the all-stars."

Fortunato's family includes his wife Mary Joy and their children Mike, 31, Sally Jane, 29, and Anna, 22. Joe keeps in contact with several of his teammates. He often sees Doug Atkins, Earl Leggett recently met him for lunch, and Johnny Morris still uses his season tickets in Chicago. Joe's passions include hunting and fishing.

As for football, Fortunato still keeps tabs on the Bears. He hasn't attended a game at Soldier Field for five or six years but always watches them on television.

"I was a teammate of Mike Ditka's and I was sorry to see him go," Fortunato said. "But I hope Dave Wannstedt does a good job and the Bears are successful. I've always been a Bear. I'm with them all the way and I cheer for them like crazy."



Joe Fortunato was a five-time All-Pro who missed only one game due to injury during a 12-year career with the Bears from 1955-66. (Photo courtesy of the National Italian American Sports Hall of Fame)

ATTENTION BEAR FANS! We Carry The GREATEST Selection of Chicago Bears Products for the 1993/94 Season!

Mini Helmet Chairs.....	\$49.00	Coolers.....	\$31.00
Logo Decals.....	\$7.50	Golf Gloves.....	\$18.00
Musical Mugs.....	\$25.00	Board Games.....	\$32.00
Porcelain Soldier Fields.....	\$70.00	Throwback Helmets.....	\$89.00
Super Bowl Watches.....	\$60.00	Autographed Jerseys.....	\$299.00
Helmet Mugs.....	\$16.50	Super Bowl Plaques.....	\$56.00
Calendars.....	\$9.95	Walnut Pen Sets.....	\$52.95
Address Stamps.....	\$21.00	Medallions.....	\$10.95
"Branded" Jackets.....	\$430.00	Aquariums.....	\$99.00
Autographed Helmets.....	\$369.00	Musical Bank.....	\$25.00
Wood Benches.....	\$175.00	Desk Lamps.....	\$37.00
Crystal Trophies.....	\$149.00	Marble Paperweights.....	\$17.95

SHIPPING & HANDLING	\$10.01 to \$40.....\$5	\$40.01 to \$90.....\$8	\$90.01 to \$150.....\$14
	\$10 and under.....\$5		Over \$150.....\$20

Send \$3 for our color catalog featuring the newest products on the Chicago Bears
Visa and MasterCard Accepted

SPORTS COLLECTORS HEAVEN

P.O. Box 33141-Bears, Granada Hills, CA 91394
Phone 818-363-1914 Fax 818-363-7280

OWN YOUR OWN BUSINESS



WORK FROM YOUR HOME & BE YOUR OWN BOSS!

We offer you the opportunity to own your own independent business. You'll be able to sell brand name sporting goods and/or T-shirts, jackets, uniforms and advertising specialties all imprinted with any logo. A one time initial investment of

\$695

is all you need to get started!
CALL TODAY

SportsLife

ENTERPRISES

800-243-9778 ex 133

(203) 246-6851 ex 133
80 Weston St., Hartford, CT 06120
Div. of BowlMaster Inc.
Official Licensee of TEAM USA Products

BRITAIN-FRANCE-IRELAND

Experience R&R as it should be. Captain your own barge or cruiser and explore the Rivers, Canals and lakes from the North of Scotland to the Mediterranean...and/or enjoy the delights of the countryside and the people from your own Country Cottage. Phone for brochure.

BLAKES VACATIONS

1-800-628-8118
Mention The Bear Report

24 North Outfitters

Phil Chalifour, Box 276
Leoville, Saskatchewan
Canada S0J 1N0
306-984-4830

9km W of Leoville. Outpost: 3km from Lac Eau Claire. Open for spring bear and fall archery/rifle white-tailed deer seasons. Professionally guided 6 day hunts. We specialize in small groups (limit 5 persons/week) for an adventure in quality hunting. Great wall-eye, perch and northern pike fishing. For rates & reservation phone or write.

**EXCELLENT HUNTS
STILL AVAILABLE
FOR 93. BOOK NOW!**
Mention The Bear Report

Live Entertainment For Weddings,
Private Parties, Corporate Functions
CALL NOW!

AL SCHULTZ TALENT AGENCY

2536 N. Linden Avenue, Waukegan, Illinois
"THE TALENT PEOPLE"

Country, Top 40, Variety, Blues, Show & Dance
Bands, Clowns, Magicians, Male/Female Dancers,
DJs, Mariachi, Hawaiian & Specialty Acts

AL SCHULTZ

Phone 708-244-1550

7 Days a Week Until 10 p.m.
Mention The Bear Report

Time is right to hire G.M.

Opinion: The Bears need help from somebody they haven't even yet hired.

You watch the Bears on the field these days and your mind can't help but wander up to the front office.

Dave Wannstedt's defense intercepted two passes and recovered a fumble in the first half of their 11-10 loss to the Cardinals Aug. 14. But, for example, tackle William "The Refrigerator" Perry didn't play. Perry is a nine-year veteran with the knees of a 40-year-old man.

It is time to shop him. Perry is not alone this way. There are others.

Which brings us back to the front office. Now more than ever the Bears need a full-time general manager working the ins and outs of free agency, the fine points of the new collective bargaining agreement and when to deal for whom how.

Bill Tobin is no longer available. The Bears forced him out as general manager in a power play. They called it a "resigna-

BRIAN HEWITT



tion." That was a euphemism.

The clumsiness that surrounded the Stan Thomas-to Atlanta trade that didn't happen as fast as it should have, was symptomatic.

The Bears say they are comfortable with their streamlined front office. Team president Michael McCaskey, a dangerous neophyte in matters of player personnel,

promises to assume greater responsibilities in that area.

Operations VP Ted Phillips gets smarter every year at creating contractual agreements that make both sides feel like winners. But he is not a talent evaluator and doesn't have the time to aspire to be one.

Rod Graves, the Bears director of college scouting, is not well-known around the league enough yet to be fully plugged into the pro personnel network.

And Wannstedt, the point man on the Thomas talks deal, will very soon find he has fewer hours in the day to monitor the transaction agate and work the phones with full time general managers. The regular season opener is three weeks away.

The ideal man for the Bears is available. His name is Bill Polian. Polian is a former NFL Executive of the Year and the guy responsible for getting the Bills to the last three Super Bowls.

He once worked in Chicago as the personnel boss of the late and unlamented Chicago Blitz. He has paid his dues. And he is working for the league these days.

Polian left the Bills after last season because of philosophical differences with the people close to team owner Ralph Wilson. But he departed with class. He didn't burn any bridges. The losers in that deal were the Bills, not Polian.

Polian knows everybody there is to know around the league. He's the kind of guy Wannstedt can relate to on football matters. And he's got the political savvy to keep McCaskey at arms length while making McCaskey feel like he's an integral part of the mix.

The sore need the Bears have for somebody like Polian will become even

more apparent soon. Roster cutdowns begin a week from Tuesday. By mid-season they will have to admit, at least to themselves, their front office is short on brains.

Interestingly enough, Polian met informally with McCaskey during the off-season. The reports out of Lake Forest were that matters of substance weren't part of the conversation.

But the Bears know who Polian is. They know where to find him. And they better not wait too long to offer him a job.

Wannstedt already is talking about working the waiver wire after Aug. 30 when teams must cut down to 47 players. But his attention at that time should remain focused primarily on the practice field and the film room.

Brian Hewitt covers the Bears and the NFL for the Chicago Sun-Times.

Is there room for a third man in this picture?



With a subscription to your favorite team publication.

Each publication is devoted exclusively to your team and offers:

- Game Coverage ■ Action Photos
- Player Features ■ Top Columnists
- Rosters & Reviews
- Statistics & Much More!

Phone today for subscription or advertising information to these fine Professional Football Publication Association publications. And for the latest "scoop" on your team, call the special Hotline numbers.

- * BEAR REPORT 1-800-728-7768 (Hotline 1-900-370-9696)
- * BENGAL REPORT.....(513) 941-9021 (Hotline 1-900-990-5085 Ext. 928)
- * BROWNS NEWS/ILLUSTRATED(713) 261-6077 (Hotline 1-900-860-0007)
- * BUCCANEER MAGAZINE 1-800-881-2827 (Hotline 1-900-288-2827)
- * BUFFALO BILLS SHOUT! 1-800-93BILLS (Hotline 1-900-903-2455)
- * CHIEFS REPORT 1-800-578-2624
- * DOLPHIN DIGEST 1-800-334-4005 (Hotline 1-900-860-1972)
- * EAGLES DIGEST 1-800-334-4005 (Hotline 1-900-860-1992)
- * 49'ERS REPORT.....(713) 261-6077
- * GIANTS NEWSWEEKLY 1-800-562-2198 (Hotline 1-900-860-1010)
- * INSIDE THE SEAHAWKS (206) 781-3291 (Hotline 1-900-288-9980)
- * OILER NEWS (713) 261-6077
- * PACKER REPORT 1-800-728-7768 (Hotline 1-900-860-4229)
- * RAIDERS NEWSPAPER 1-800-344-3266 (Hotline 1-900-820-1983)
- * RAMPAGES 1-800-344-3266 (Hotline 1-900-860-1726)
- * REDSKIN REVIEW 1-800-333-5588 (Hotline 1-900-407-SKINS)
- * SAINTS DIGEST 1-800-334-4005 (Hotline 1-900-40SAINT)
- * STEELERS DIGEST 1-800-334-4005 (Hotline 1-900-860-1974)
- * VIKING UPDATE 1-800-328-4827 ext. 3585 (Hotline 1-900-860-0075)

When does my subscription expire?

That's one of the most commonly asked questions we hear at the BEAR REPORT. Here's how you can easily find out the answer!

10052567
is your account number.

10052567B01811

JOHN Q. PUBLIC
123 PLEASANT LANE
ANYTOWN, USA 00000

B01811 — This is your expiration date. Your subscription expires with Volume 18 (018), Issue 11 (11). The volume and issue numbers are printed on the cover of every issue. Volume 18 is the 1993-94 season and there are 26 issues per volume.

If you still have questions call us at (608) 837-2200 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. — give us the numbers on your mailing label and we can help!

Bears 1993 Schedule

PRESEASON

Date	Opponent	Time*	Network
Sun., Aug. 8	at Philadelphia Eagles	L 9-13	TNT
Sat., Aug. 14	PHOENIX CARDINALS	L 10-11	WMAQ
Mon., Aug. 23	at New Orleans Saints	L 14-20	ABC
Fri., Aug. 27	DALLAS COWBOYS	8:00 p.m.	WMAQ

REGULAR SEASON

Sun., Sept. 5	NEW YORK GIANTS	3:00 p.m.	CBS
Sun., Sept. 12	at Minnesota Vikings	Noon	CBS
Sun., Sept. 19	Bye Week		
Sun., Sept. 26	TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS	Noon	CBS
Sun., Oct. 3	ATLANTA FALCONS	Noon	CBS
Sun., Oct. 10	at Philadelphia Eagles	Noon	CBS
Sun., Oct. 17	Bye Week		
Mon., Oct. 25	MINNESOTA VIKINGS	8:00 p.m.	ABC
Sun., Oct. 31	at Green Bay Packers	Noon	CBS
Sun., Nov. 7	LOS ANGELES RAIDERS	3:00 p.m.	NBC
Sun., Nov. 14	at San Diego Chargers	7:00 p.m.	ESPN
Sun., Nov. 21	at Kansas City Chiefs	Noon	CBS
Thurs., Nov. 25	at Detroit Lions	11:30 a.m.	CBS
Sun., Dec. 5	GREEN BAY PACKERS	Noon	CBS
Sun., Dec. 12	at Tampa Bay Buccaneers	Noon	CBS
Sat., Dec. 18	DENVER BRONCOS	11:30 a.m.	NBC
Sun., Dec. 26	DETROIT LIONS	Noon	CBS
Sun., Jan. 2, 1994	at Los Angeles Rams	3:00 p.m.	CBS

*Chicago time
HOME TEAM IN CAPS

Gift Ideas



Order Form

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Daytime Phone _____

Payment Method:

☐ Money Order ☐ Check

☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard ☐ Discover Card

Card No. _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

SHIPPING & HANDLING

Shipments are sent via UPS. Street addresses only (No. P.O. Boxes). Charges for Shipping & Handling are noted. For Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico and Canada add \$10.00 more to the shipping costs.

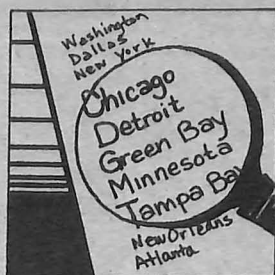
Shipments are sent via UPS. Street addresses only (No. P.O. Boxes). Charges for Shipping & Handling are noted. For Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico and Canada add \$10.00 more to the shipping costs.

ITEM #	ITEM DESCRIPTION	QUAN.	UNIT COST	TOTAL

Total

Allow 4-6 Weeks For Delivery

[illegible]



CENTRAL ISSUES

By John Delcos

McMahon named starter



**Minnesota
Vikings**

Jimmy Mac is back. And he's spitting fire.

The Vikings signed the 34-year-old former Bear in the offseason as an unrestricted free agent. The incentives could reach as high as \$3.1 million. However, the only way incentives matter is if he starts — which was announced last week. Two days later, Rich Gannon was traded to the Washington Redskins.

There was never really any doubt McMahon, a backup to Randall Cunningham in Philadelphia the last two years, would start. This is probably his last shot — and he is going to make the most of it.

"I worked very hard this offseason, like I do every offseason," said McMahon. "That's another myth; that he gets hurt because he doesn't work. Ninety percent of the league couldn't do what I did this offseason."

The reason McMahon gets hurt, is because he plays hard. He has little speed, but he'll run if he has to, and he'll usually get the extra yard; he'll stay in the pocket long after others have cleared out, or grounded the ball.

It's still going to be that way.

"I'm just going to play every game like it's my last. I can't change now," said McMahon.

McMahon also provided fodder for the lockerroom bulletin board by insisting in a TV interview that the Bears were the only team in the NFC Central not capable of winning the division.

It should be interesting when the two teams meet Sept. 12 in Minnesota.

Sean Salisbury will back up McMahon, followed by Brad Johnson and Gino Torretta.



**Green Bay
Packers**

The quarterback question in Green Bay is: Who is Brett Favre's backup?

The most experienced is former New York Jet Ken O'Brien, who has a \$1.8 million contract, but the edge could be based on economics. Ty Detmer's salary is \$115,000; Mark Brunell's salary is \$114,000. However, general manager Ron Wolf said money won't be the criteria for naming a backup.

The problem with O'Brien, is that despite his experience, none of it is with the Packers' offense. How much does he know? How long will it take for him to learn the rest?

"That's what we're trying to find out: How long is that going to take?" said offensive coordinator Sherman Lewis. "That's to be seen. I don't know what he knows. It seems like he knows the offense, it's just a matter of doing it."

OT Tootie Robbins was signed, but remains rusty from a shoulder injury. "By sometime (this) week, I should have my technique where I can play and be effective," said Robbins. ... LB Johnny Holland, who is coming back from neck surgery, returned to 11-on-11 contract drills. "He banged around and hit people, and he does a little bit more every day. That's encouraging," said Holmgren. ... Injury update: WR Sterling Sharpe (ankle) returned to practice. NT Bill Maas (ankle) missed practice.

The Packers opened the preseason with three straight losses, which caused concern in the land of big expectations. But even in a loss to the Saints, the first-team offense left the game with a 17-0 lead.

Besides, the preseason means nothing. Just ask the Bears, who finished 1-3 before winning the Super Bowl in 1985.



**Detroit
Lions**

It's Peete. Finally.

After weeks of indecision, Lions coach Wayne Fontes finally settled on choosing Rodney Peete to open the season, making the announcement 10 days after he initially promised.

"I expected to be in this position," said Peete. "It would have been more of a surprise if it had gone the other way."

Andre Ware, Erik Kramer and Chuck Long will compete for two of the reserve roles, something which irritated Ware.

"It's like a big charade or something," Ware said of Fontes' selection process. "You know, have fun playing with guys' minds."

Originally, Fontes promised to name a starter after the first exhibition game, but delayed that announcement. In the following two games, Ware played well, but not to the point where he clearly outplayed Peete. Conversely, Peete didn't overwhelm Ware, either.

"Is it really that much of a surprise?" responded Ware. "It was kind of said that way from the beginning of training camp, little hints and things that were said. All I could do was to make the most of the opportunities that were given to me while the decision was being delayed."



**Tampa Bay
Buccaneers**

One of the rites of summer is the rookie holdout. Followed by another rite, a nagging injury to that rookie.

It happens every year, in most every camp, and the Bucs are no different.

So, when top draft pick defensive end Eric Curry pulled a back muscle jogging in his first full workout, it didn't come as much of a surprise for coach Sam Wyche.

"I could have won that bet," said Wyche. "But he will be all right. It is very mild."

Curry continued to practice during the week, but not at full speed, and by the end of last week it wasn't known how much he would be available for Saturday's game against Buffalo.

Former Lions K Eddie Murray and Michael Husted are competing for the placekicking job. Husted has a stronger leg and gets the ball into the end zone with more consistency, while Murray has been more accurate in field goals. ... LT Paul Gruber remains unsigned. ... Injury update: G Ian Beckles (hamstring), FB Rudy Harris (shoulder), RB Gary Anderson (shoulder), CB Darryl Pollard (herniated disc), WR Horace Copeland (groin), CB Martin Mayhew (hand), CB Rogerick Green (knee).... Waived PK Tracy Bennett.

MOVING?

Don't forget one of your most prized possessions ... your subscription to BEAR REPORT. Often we forget those items we don't use each day. However, how will you feel next month when your issue covering the *Chicago Bears* doesn't arrive ???

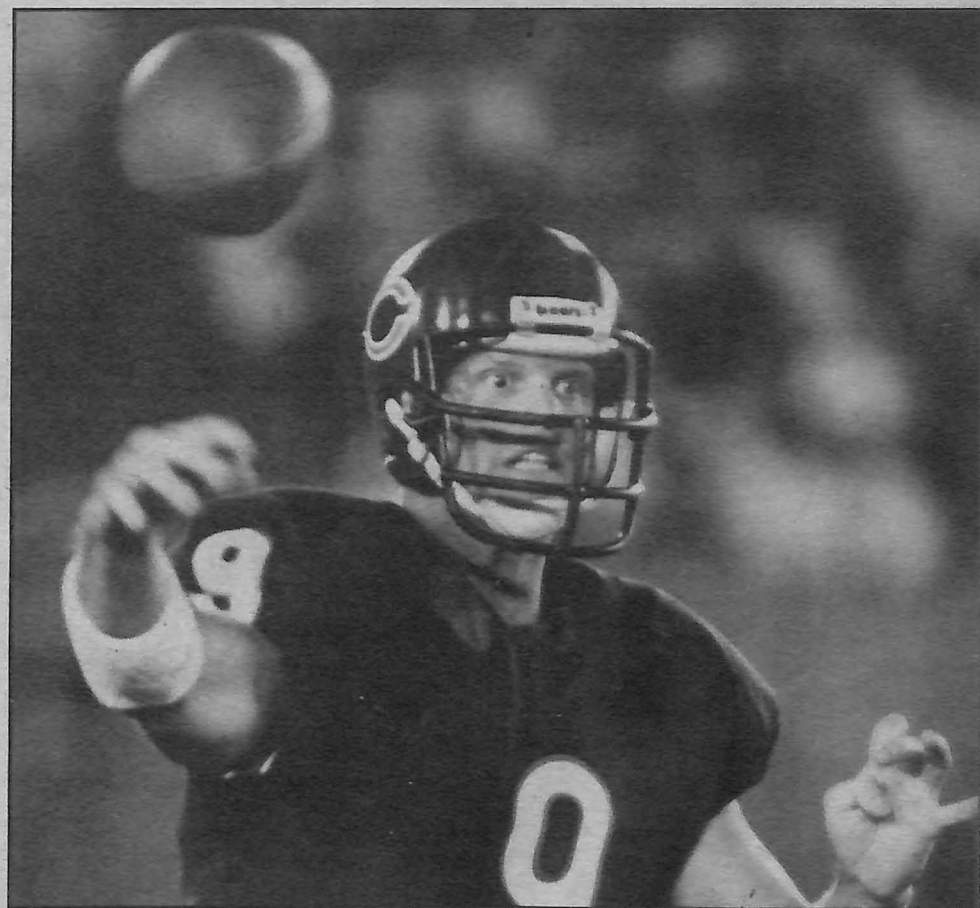
Please use this convenient form. It will help speed up your request and you won't miss any issues.

**PLACE LABEL
FROM MOST RECENT ISSUE HERE**

NEW ADDRESS HERE

Mail to: BEAR REPORT
Change of Address
112 Market Street
Sun Prairie, WI 53590

HSE-903



Jimmy Mac is back: In a move that surprised no one, former Bear Jim McMahon was named the Vikings starting quarterback. (Bear Report file photo by Steve Woltmann)



VIEWPOINT

P.O. BOX 4205, ARLINGTON HEIGHTS, IL 60006

What's a free kick?

One of the things I pride myself on is knowing a lot more about football than the average female. But even this one stumped me: what is a free kick? How do you get the opportunity to try one? Also, why is it used so rarely in the NFL?

Nicole DeLuca
Orlando, Florida

A free kick is a kickoff, kick after safety, or kick after a fair catch. It may be a placekick, dropkick or punt, except a punt may not be used on a kickoff. As the name implies, it's not contested by the defense. A regular kickoff is considered a free kick. It's also seen as the play immediately following a safety.

The play you're apparently referring to was the final play of the first half in the Bears' Aug. 8 game at Philadelphia. Chris Gardocki came on to attempt a 63-yard free kick field goal. That particular play is so rare because fair catches are usually not made within field goal range. In this case, it was a desperation attempt at scoring because there was no time remaining in the half.

Another Halas enters the world

On May 25, 1993 at 10:21 a.m. a new Bears fan made his way into the world. James Halas Signorino was the first child born to Jack and Dolores Signorino of Long Island, New York. James Halas weighed in at 7 pounds, 6 ounces and was 19 inches long.

He is already studying the Bears playbook and talking to the front office about making his way into the Bears lineup by the 2018 season, hopefully as a fullback. I'm sure all Bear fans will appreciate having another Halas on the field.

Here's looking forward to the 1993 season, a time for change, and a time for new beginnings just like our son. Bear down, Chicago Bears!

Jack Signorino
Long Island, New York

On Dante and Curtis and others...

I have been a Bears fan all my life and

was sorry to hear about the retirement of the great Mike Singletary. I also know that nobody is more suited to take over for the future Hall of Famer than Dante Jones.

Dante has had five years to learn behind Mike and to learn the system. He has also proven himself in the past and is proving himself in the preseason.

I believe Curtis Conway will have a great rookie season. I also think he will help open up the offense for players like Tom Waddle, Anthony Morgan and Neal Anderson. Watch out for a big year from Conway!

I also believe the Bears will be much improved this year. I think they will finish between 7-9 and 10-6. Hopefully, it will be a super season for the best team in pro football.

Gary Todd
Drumright, Oklahoma

I believe Dante Jones will be the middle linebacker this year. He was hitting hard and flying all over the place against the Eagles in the first preseason game.

Curtis Conway is a guy who can blow a game open any time. I feel he will do that this year. If the quarterbacks can hit him accurately and deep, he will score more than a few touchdowns this season. He probably will also score on special teams. In short, he'll be an impact player, even as a rookie.

The Bears will go 8-8 and improve dramatically by the end of the season.

Hey, how about Jeremy Lincoln! This could be his year. He played like it in Philadelphia.

Jim Prill
Radisson, Wisconsin

I think Myron Baker could do a great job, but Dante Jones has been in the shadows for six years. You have to give the guy credit for waiting so long for the job. If anyone should get a starting job, Jones deserves it the most.

In my opinion Curtis Conway will be voted Rookie of the Year. If he stays healthy he could make Chicago forget about just relying on the running game. The opposing teams can't put eight guys on the line anymore because of Conway's speed. He will be one the Bears' biggest impact players.

The Bears probably won't have a horrible year as everybody says. I doubt they

will be below .500 for one reason, and that's new self-esteem. I'd guess they'll be 9-7, but not much higher than that. Wannstedt will turn the Bears' boring offense into a roaring train.

Jered Davis
Catherine, Kansas

If Dante Jones can do the job, it's his to lose. If not it'll be Myron Baker or Dave Hoffmann.

Curtis Conway is a super athlete, but it will take time before he becomes a great football player.

The 1993 Bears record probably will be between 9-7 and 11-5. The defense will keep the Bears in almost every game.

James West
Duenweg, Missouri

Kid for a day

What makes a mature, respected 42-year-old professional man chase after kids half his age hawking for photos and autographs? I don't know...but special thanks to those Bears players who made me a kid again, at least for one day in Platteville.

Best wishes to each of you, and thanks again. And beat Green Bay!

Roger Johnson
Prairie du Sac, Wisconsin

Hunting Bear in Florida

My husband has been a Bears fan for 25 years. We have been together for 10 years and have never missed a Bears game.

However we recently moved to Clearwater, Florida, and do not own a satellite dish. Unfortunately, that means will have to miss some of this season's games. Word has it that there's a group here known as the Suncoast Chicago Bears Fans Association. Only we are not able to get a phone number or address to find out more information.

If anyone knows how we can get in touch with them, please let us know.

Karen E. Janus
Clearwater, Florida

There's an establishment in Tampa called Damon's Clubhouse (7700 Courtney Campbell Causeway, 813-281-0566) that regularly shows Bears games. But we can't get you any further information without a phone number or return address!

ORGANIZE AND PROTECT YOUR COPIES OF BEAR REPORT

Designed exclusively for BEAR REPORT, these custom-made title cases will attractively hold a year's issues (may vary with issue size.) Ideal for displaying your valuable copies while protecting them from damage! Constructed of reinforced board and covered with durable leather-like material in blue with BEAR REPORT hot-stamped in gold, the cases are V-notched for easy access.



1 Case - \$7.95
3 Cases - \$21.95 — 6 Cases - \$39.95

Seattle Fan Club finds a home

A year after discovering that sharing a bar with Packers fans wouldn't work out, the Bears Northwest Fan Club in Seattle is relocating to its own establishment.

Bear fans in the state of Washington will gather to watch games this season at Lahaina Louie's in suburban Redmond.

The group's president is Dawn Fitzer, a native of Northwest Indiana. Dawn started the group last season by placing an ad in a local newspaper. Up to 50 Bears fans gathered for games last season.

"I didn't realize how much I missed real sports when I moved out here," said Dawn, 25, a merchandise rep for a local gourmet salad company. "They're not real big fans of any of their teams here."

A \$10 membership to the Bears club includes a bumper sticker, pennant and schedule. Fans are not required to join and may still watch the games at Lahaina Louie's free of charge.

You can join the club or get more information by calling Dawn at 206-745-5262.

BEAR REPORT

Jesse Jones Industries, Dept. RLE-B

499 East Erie Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19134

Enclosed is \$_____ for _____ cases. Add \$1.00 per case for postage and handling. Outside USA add \$2.50 per case (U.S. funds only). PA residents add 7% sales tax.

PRINT NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

(No P.O. Box Numbers Please)

CITY _____

STATE _____

ZIP _____

Charge Orders (\$15 Minimum)

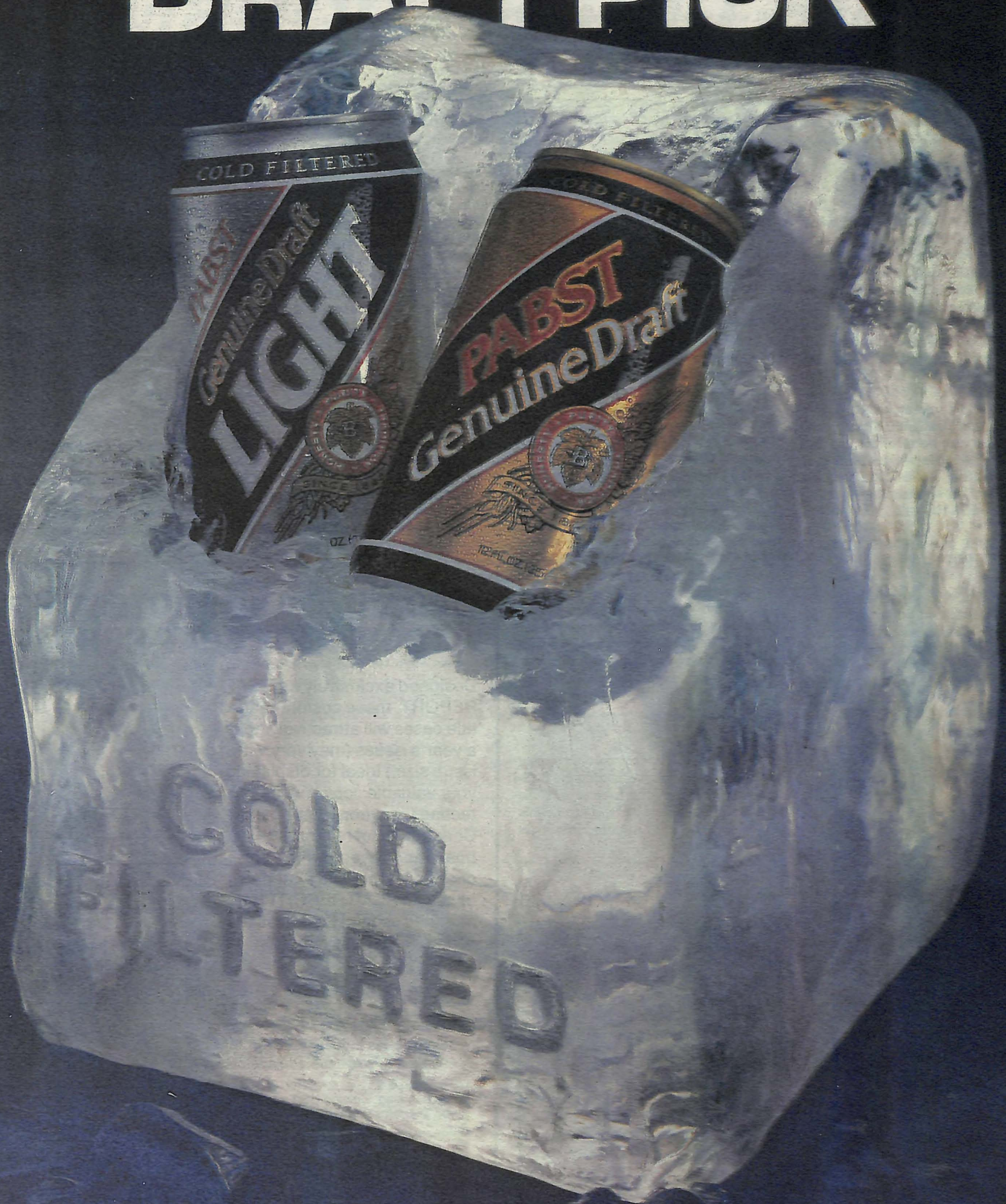
☐ American Express ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard ☐ Diners Club

Card No. _____ Exp. Date _____

Or Call Toll Free 7 Days - 24 Hours 1-800-825-6690

SATISFACTION GUARANTEED

IMPROVE YOUR DRAFT PICK



Great Taste that Never Fades